

ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
(SCORP)
1997 - 2002



Alaska Department of
Natural
Resources



STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

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May 21, 1999

Dear SCORP Reader:

The 1997-2002 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), prepared by Alaska State Parks, is now available. The SCORP provides an inventory of outdoor recreation needs, trends, and issues relevant to recreation providers, user groups, and the public.

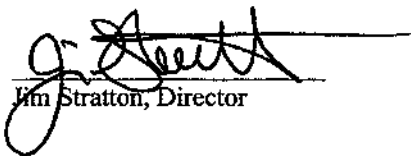
The SCORP recognizes that recreation is very important to Alaskans. Recreation needs are growing because the population is increasing, the population is recreating more, and, as adventure-based and nature-based recreation increase, Alaska's wildlands and waters are attracting more visitors. Chief among needs is how we provide adequate funding to maintain and improve recreation opportunities for everyone. The SCORP also keeps Alaska eligible to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

We think you will find the information in the SCORP very interesting and useful when dealing with Alaska outdoor recreation. The SCORP will help all those involved in outdoor recreation make better decisions to meet recreation demands. Along with the public, the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board and other governmental outdoor recreation-provider agencies have participated in the update of this SCORP. Our thanks to all who participated in this update.

We ask that you read and use the SCORP with the following in mind: SCORP conforms to federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program requirements for what a SCORP should cover; SCORP is an inventory of outdoor issues, trends, needs, and facilities on all public lands in Alaska (updated every five years); SCORP does NOT make decisions about outdoor recreation - it relays updated outdoor recreation information to providers, user groups, and interested individuals who formulate and make decisions about outdoor recreation.

Reference copies of the SCORP are located at the following public libraries: Anchorage (Loussac), Juneau, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Nome, Kodiak, Sitka, Ketchikan, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Valdez, Cordova, Seward, Wasilla, Tok, and Glennallen, the University libraries in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and Alaska Public Land Information centers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Tok, and Ketchikan. Reference copies are also located at all Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation offices, and have been sent to recreation agencies and community recreation providers. The SCORP will be available on the Internet after July 1, 1999, at: www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans

Sincerely,



Jim Stratton, Director

ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

State of Alaska

*Tony Knowles,
Governor*

Department of Natural Resources

*John Shively,
Commissioner*

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks)

*Jim Stratton,
Director*

January, 1999

Alaska's Outdoor Legacy meets the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) requirements for continued state eligibility to receive matching federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

The preparation of this plan was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended), Project #02-00368, and appropriations from the Alaska General Fund to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks).

Alaska State Parks (Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation) receives funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Our programs are operated free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any persons who believe they have been discriminated against or would like more information should contact the Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, MS 3320-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Phone (202) 208-7821.

ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION (ALASKA STATE PARKS)**

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Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board.

All the communities that took the time to respond to the facility inventory and needs survey.

All 16 communities that participated in public workshops.

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 19, 1999

Dear Alaskan,

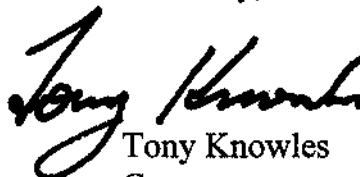
I am pleased to present Alaska's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This document references preferences, use trends, and issues important to outdoor recreation actions at the state, federal, local, and private levels.

The plan, entitled "Alaska's Outdoor Legacy," is a broad look at the outdoor life which is an essential part of our Alaska lifestyle. The importance of recreation to Alaskans is shown by strong support for recreation programs and participation rates in a variety of outdoor activities. Through my Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska Program I am committed to further recreation for all Alaskans.

The SCORP plan gives the direction and priorities necessary to implement strong outdoor recreation programs applicable to all levels of government and the private sector. Developing a secure funding base for outdoor recreation and maintenance, expanding recreation opportunities on public lands, improving access to recreation resources, meeting the needs of diverse and increasing user groups, and addressing facility shortages and upkeep are important objectives which require our collective efforts.

I encourage all departments of state government to take dynamic and creative roles to carry out recreation programs that are responsive to the needs of Alaskans, and look forward to working with you in meeting that challenge.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

TRAAK CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLUTION 98-9

Endorsing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

At a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board held on July 21, 1998, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS: Governor Knowles is committed to the TRAAK Program and to furthering outdoor recreation opportunities for all Alaskans;

WHEREAS: the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a guide to recreation-related land acquisition, facility development, and policy for the State of Alaska for 1997-2002;

WHEREAS: the SCORP maintains Alaska's eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program;

WHEREAS: the TRAAK Board has served in an advisory capacity, and helped sponsor public workshops in 16 communities statewide, for the 1997-2002 plan update;

WHEREAS: the TRAAK Board participates in prioritizing and recommending applications for LWCF projects; and

WHEREAS: LWCF projects have greatly benefited recreation in Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the TRAAK Citizens Advisory Board endorses the 1997-2002 SCORP update as the policy document referencing preferences, use trends, and issues important to outdoor recreation actions at the state, federal, local, and private levels; and
2. That the TRAAK Citizens Advisory Board encourages all recreation agencies, providers, user groups, and the public to consider SCORP information in their recreation planning decisions.

Adopted on the 21st day of July, 1998.



Helen D. Nienhueser, Chairperson

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1997-2002 (SCORP) presents outdoor recreation-related preferences, issues, use trends, needs, and existing and potential facility development. It assists the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board, other recreation providers and user groups, and the public in making outdoor recreation decisions. Alaska State Parks is the lead agency in developing the SCORP. The plan is made available to recreation providers, communities, and the public statewide. It also maintains Alaska's eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE: With 366 million acres, Alaska is a land of dynamics and extremes, matched by a rich and diverse biota. Land ownership is complex and in transition. Much is in state and federal ownership. State population in March 1998 was 609,311. Growth is increasing more slowly and the population is getting slightly older. Population shifts and trends have implications for outdoor recreation demands. As of July 1996, Alaska's people were about 74.6% Caucasian, 16.5% Alaska Native, 4.5% African American, and 4.4% Asian/Pacific. Most Alaskans live in cities, towns, villages and clustered settlements. In January 1998, there were 146 incorporated cities and 16 boroughs. Forty-two percent of the population lives in the Municipality of Anchorage. Alaska's main economic industries are oil/gas, tourism, seafood, mining, and timber. Alaska's 322 million acres of public land available for recreation include about 168 million acres of managed wildlands, and over 30,000 acres of dedicated community recreation land, and many private sector opportunities. However, many recreation opportunities and facilities are overcrowded, in short supply, or difficult to access. Alaska State Parks, the largest state park system in the U.S., is the state's largest provider of public wildland recreation facilities.

PARTICIPATION: Alaska State Parks and the TRAAK Board sought input from 16 public community workshops statewide (summarized by community and made an appendix in the SCORP), from surveys mailed to recreation providers, and from public review. Many recreation agencies and organizations also contributed to this plan.

TELEPHONE SURVEY RESULTS: The statewide telephone survey of 600 households in October 1997 asked about participation in 37 different outdoor activities and about attitudes toward recreation and funding: 92% of Alaskans consider the availability of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities important to their lifestyle; 85% drove for sightseeing/pleasure at least once in the past year; other popular activities include sport fishing (86%), picnicking (76%), bird watching/wildlife viewing (74%), and walking for fitness (72%). Favorite activities (in order of preference) are sport fishing, walking for fitness, sport hunting, day hiking, and snowmobiling. Snowmobiling, downhill skiing, sea kayaking, jet skiing, and cross country skiing are the top 5 activities Alaskans did not participate in, but would like to. Since the last survey in 1992, the number of people dissatisfied with their park experience because of crowding is significantly up. Alaskans want more motorized and non-motorized trails. Seventy-seven percent want existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities maintained before any new facilities are built. When new facilities are constructed, they want more opportunities for the disabled (86%), more public use cabins (79%), and more toilets (74%). To support outdoor recreation, Alaskans are willing to pay for operation and maintenance with registration fees for RVs (87%), ATVs (85%), and snowmobiles (84%), and support park user fees (81%). If a bond initiative on a ballot were to pay for deferred maintenance, 65% would vote yes.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS: The plan also divided the state into 3 regions: southeast, railbelt, and rural. Communities responded to a mail out survey asking about facilities and needs. New facilities are the highest priority, with maintenance next highest. Southeast's community priority for facilities are campgrounds and community parks; railbelt, trails; rural, community parks. Statewide, the barrier to meeting community outdoor recreation needs is chronic lack of funding for facility development/maintenance.

GOALS/ISSUES/STRATEGIES: The chief goal of outdoor recreation providers is to offer a range of opportunities for responsible use of Alaska's recreation resources, while protecting natural values. This SCORP, from surveys, mail outs, public input, and other recreation agency review recognizes four issues and goals, and recommended strategies to meet these goals (the plan further details these):

Issue 1: Lack of Adequate Funding

Goal 1: Secure a reliable source of funding for outdoor recreation in Alaska. Develop programs that allow important projects to be completed and maintained. Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with other agencies, private sector, and user groups.

Recommended Strategies: support ongoing efforts for reform of the Land and Water Conservation Program; continue interagency communication and cooperative efforts; privatize selected services, facility operation, and maintenance; strengthen alternative funding mechanisms and programs; develop alternative funding sources.

Issue 2: Shortage of Tourism Opportunities on Public Lands

Goal 2: Support and promote balanced use and development of Alaska's public lands for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism.

Recommended Strategies: expand cooperative planning efforts; maintain and expand private-public nature-based tourism partnerships; promote private sector development on public lands where appropriate; develop year-round tourism destinations and related services on public lands; increase capital spending to rehabilitate/expand facilities; expand public use cabin system; promote the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers.

Issue 3: Improved Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources (includes discussion of transportation enhancements, TRAAK program, disabled access, and trail identification/legal access)

Goal 3: Provide more convenient, legal, and barrier-free access to outdoor recreation opportunities on Alaska's public lands and waters.

Recommended Strategies: implement TEA21 provisions; develop inventory of barrier-free outdoor recreation facilities; continue cooperative planning efforts with "barrier-free" advocacy groups; consider incompatibility among users and user values in high-use areas; develop strategies for identifying and legally dedicating existing trails; develop opportunities for legal access on trails across private land.

Issue 4: Opportunities to Meet Recreation Needs in Communities

Goal 4: Support efforts to assist communities in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of their citizens.

Recommended Strategies: give some communities a higher priority for LWCF matching grants; develop alternative funding sources; design facilities to reflect economic realities and sustainable practices.

GRANT PROGRAM: The Land and Water Conservation Fund program has an open project selection process, designed by the State, that takes one and a half years. Projects that address priority needs identified in the SCORP may be eligible for matching grants. A local recreation plan option better helps sponsors compete for LWCF grants. Funding priorities are ranked statewide and by region as high, medium, or low in the SCORP.

WETLANDS: SCORP has a wetlands component that must be consistent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service wetlands programs and policies and developed cooperatively with other agencies. Wetlands cover 43.3% of Alaska. Distribution is variable. Over the past 200 years, less than 1% has been drained or filled. Wetlands provide many functions and values. Many of the wetland threats concentrate around the state's population centers. SCORP priorities for wetland acquisition include rare or declining types, threat of loss/degradation, high degree of public recreation benefit/value, and location within 50 miles of an urban, semi-urban, or recreation/tourism area.

APPENDICES: Appendices include selected statewide telephone survey results and comparisons, community mail out survey form, local recreation plan guidelines, public workshop and public review comments, and bibliography and information sources.

CHAPTER 1

ABOUT THIS PLAN

PURPOSE

Alaska's Outdoor Legacy is a guide to recreation-related land acquisition, facility development, and policy for the State of Alaska for the period of 1997 through 2002. It serves as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and maintains Alaska's eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. It is the seventh in a series of such plans developed as part of Alaska's continuing commitment to outdoor recreation. The plan will also greatly assist the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board with its role in the LWCF program (see Chapter 5 and Figure 5.1 for more about TRAAK).

REQUIREMENTS

Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines specify that a SCORP be prepared every five years, and that each SCORP:

- assess the supply and demand for outdoor recreation,
- contain a wetlands component that identifies wetlands with high recreation values,
- include an implementation component that outlines recommended actions consistent with plan goals.

GOALS OF SCORP

- Provide recreation agencies and communities with a reference to outdoor recreation preferences, use trends, and issues relevant to Alaska through 2002;
- Identify statewide and regional capital investment priorities, for acquiring, developing, and protecting outdoor recreation resources;
- Identify the State's priorities, strategies, and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment;
- Provide information that agencies and communities need to develop project proposals eligible for LWCF assistance.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCORP AND THE LWCF

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (P.L. 88-578), requires states to have an approved SCORP on file with the National Park Service in order to participate in the LWCF cost-share program. Through this program, federal LWCF dollars, generated by revenues from outer-continental-shelf oil drilling leases, may be used to finance eligible state and local government land acquisition and outdoor recreation programs.

An important determinant of a project's eligibility to receive LWCF assistance is that it meet a priority need or objective identified in the state's current SCORP. Since the program began in 1965, 368 Alaskan projects have received LWCF funding and state matches, resulting in the acquisition of more than 20,700 acres of park land and the development of nearly \$56.3 million in public recreation facilities.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ROLE IN STATEWIDE RECREATION PLANNING

The responsibility for outdoor recreation planning and administering the LWCF program resides with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, particularly with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks). The Governor appointed the Alaska State Parks director as the State Liaison Officer, effective September 2, 1995. Alaska Statute 41.21.020 provides State Parks the legal authority to:

- Develop a continuing plan for conservation and maximum use in the public interest of the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, biological, and recreation resources of the state.
- Provide for consulting services designed to develop local park and recreation facilities and programs.
- Provide clearinghouse services for other state agencies concerned with park and recreation matters.

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

Alaska State Parks is the lead agency in developing the SCORP.

The SCORP was developed between March 1997 and November 1998 by Alaska State Parks planning staff in cooperation with interagency advisors, the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board, other local, state, and federal outdoor recreation professionals, interest groups, and the public.

To quantify what Alaskans currently do for recreation outdoors and to learn what opportunities they want in the future, 600 households throughout the state were surveyed by telephone in October 1997. Additionally, an informal inventory and survey of communities and recreation provider agencies was conducted to estimate the number of existing outdoor recreation facilities and to record recreation needs and issues.

Public participation by household was primarily through the statewide telephone survey. In addition, 16 workshops were held from Nome to Ketchikan (see Appendix D). Government agencies, park and recreational user groups, and the visitor industry were also consulted for review and update. Public comments were solicited and considered in the update process (see Appendix D). The wetlands component was updated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is consistent with its wetland programs and policies. It was prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It includes those wetlands that meet criteria for high recreation value wetlands.

HOW THE PLAN IS ORGANIZED

Chapter 2 summarizes land ownership and demographic and economic patterns and trends within the state, and identifies planning regions.

Chapter 3 contains an estimate of the state's outdoor recreation resources and facilities.

Chapter 4 summarizes the results of the statewide and informal surveys to assess the outdoor recreation preferences of Alaska residents, the demand for future opportunities, and the level of support for proposals to meet the growing demand for facilities and programs during a period of declining recreation budgets.

Chapter 5 identifies critical statewide recreation issues and goals, and recommended actions to meet goals.

Chapter 6 summarizes the LWCF grant application process and schedule, and outlines regional priorities for LWCF project funding.

Chapter 7 discusses wetlands as important recreation lands and guides in identifying high recreation value wetlands that should receive priority attention for acquisition or other protective efforts.

Appendices include statewide telephone survey and comparison results, community mail out survey form, local recreation plan guidelines, public workshop and public review comments, and bibliography/information sources (including websites).

CHAPTER 2

THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE: AN OVERVIEW

*"I like this country. I don't even want to go out, only to visit my folks once before they die.
But I'd just as soon die here as anywhere. I'd keep better."
(A miner on the Koyukuk River, quoted in Bob Marshall's Journal)*

THE LAND

Alaska is famous for geographic excesses, foremost of which is its size. At 570,374 square miles, or approximately 366 million acres, it is the country's largest state, one-fifth the size of the continental United States. Alaskans like to brag that if their state were divided in half, Texas would be the nation's third largest state. Alaska has more miles of coastline than all of the continental states combined, the tallest mountain in North America (Mt. McKinley at 20,320 feet), more than 5,000 glaciers and over 20,000 square miles of inland water.

Positioned along the Pacific Rim, Alaska is a zone of geologic tension, where the Pacific and North American tectonic plates meet. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are reminders of Alaska's geologic youth, and the dynamic nature of the landscape. Here too, warm and cold seas, and Arctic and Pacific air masses meet. The result is climate extremes and volatile, often violent weather. The nation's lowest recorded temperature (-80 degrees Fahrenheit) was recorded in Alaska, and winds of 139 m.p.h. have been recorded on the Aleutian Islands. Alaskan summers are brief, relatively warm, wet, and dominated by the "midnight sun." Winters are long, cold, and dark.

The dynamics and extremes of the physical world are matched by a rich and diverse biota. Alaska contains flora and fauna of temperate, subarctic, and arctic types in a profusion of marine, intertidal, and terrestrial environments. Plant communities range from the towering temperate rainforest of Southeast Alaska to pioneering colonies of lichen and moss on rocky mountain slopes. Alaskan waters support rich fish and marine mammal populations. Migrant birds from many continents breed here, herds of caribou thunder across the arctic plain, and bears crowd the edges of salmon-rich streams.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Land ownership in Alaska is complex and in transition (see "Generalized Land Ownership," Map 2.1). Under terms of the 1959 Alaska Statehood Act, the State of Alaska is authorized to receive over 103 million acres of land from the federal government. To date, the State has received about 89 million acres of this land.

The State also owns about 65 million acres of tidelands, submerged lands, and lands under inland navigable waters.

Signed into law in 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) won a unique settlement from the United States for Alaska's Native population. The act extinguished aboriginal

land claims, provided for formation of 13 regional, 4 urban, and 200 village Native corporations, and transfer of 44 million acres of land from federal to Native corporation ownership.

State and ANCSA conveyances have not been completed. The federal government (Bureau of Land Management) owes ANCSA corporations about 9 million acres and owes the State about 16 million acres. Many of these remaining claims are in conflict and will require many years to resolve. Various selections cannot be completed until actual land surveys are done, which will also take many years.

Upon completion of the conveyance process, the state's largest landowner will remain the federal government, with about 220 million acres or 60 percent of Alaska. The State will own 28 percent, Native corporations 11 percent, private (non-Native) one percent, and municipalities, less than one percent.

POPULATION

Despite its size, Alaska is the second smallest state in the country by population, with 1.07 people per square mile (U.S. average is 75 people per square mile). The highest density is in the Anchorage area: about 150 persons per square mile.

According to March 1998 census figures, Alaska's population was 609,311, a gain of 59,000 from 1990. There are over 216,000 households. The growth rate has slowed fairly steadily from a high of 3.1 percent in 1991-92. Population growth averaged about 1.5 percent annually since 1990. Alaska's population is increasing more slowly and is getting slightly older than before.

While Alaska has less than one percent of the population of the United States, between 1958 and 1996 its population tripled. Between 1990 and 1997, the population increased 11 percent (about 59,000).

The population is changing because more babies are being born here than people are dying. In past years, demographers have attributed population jumps to people moving to Alaska from the Lower 48 and elsewhere. But the latest jump is the result of births exceeding deaths by a margin of five to one. In fact, more people have left Alaska than moved here. Since 1990, 11,000 more people have moved away than migrated in. A booming national economy is responsible for some of Alaska's declining growth. Military base closures in the last 10 years greatly changed the population composition of the western Aleutians, the Bristol Bay Borough, and some communities in Interior Alaska.

Anchorage, the state's largest city, fell squarely within the slow-growth trend, gaining just more than 25,000 new residents for a total of 251,000, a gain of 10.9 percent. Fairbanks and Juneau also are steadily growing. Since 1990, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has grown nearly 8.5 percent to 84,301 residents, while the Juneau Borough grew slightly faster at 12.9 percent for a total population of 30,000. Bucking the slow-growth trend were the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, growing at more than twice the rate of the rest of the state, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, which has lost nearly 600 residents, or almost 5 percent. Mat-Su is the state's fastest growing area with a population that has swelled to more than 54,000 in the past seven years, a gain of more than 10,000 new residents.

THE PEOPLE

Alaska's people represent widely varied ethnic, cultural, international, and geographic diversity. Indigenous groups and migration to the state account for this diversity. Most Alaskans live in villages, towns, cities, or clustered settlements, with diversity represented throughout the state.

The median age in Alaska in 1996 was 30.9 years, up from 29.2 in 1990, an overall increase of 1.7 (the U.S. median age was 34.8). Nearly 36 percent of the population was between the ages of 25 and 44; and 4.9 percent of the population was over 65, significantly higher than the 2.9 percent proportion in 1980. It appears that Alaska is following the nationwide trend of older persons representing an increasingly greater share of population.

The Native population is both younger and older than the general state population. More than 43 percent of Natives are under 18, compared with 33 percent among all residents. Also, a slightly larger share of Natives is over 65 (5.3 percent compared with 4.9 percent). Females comprised 47.8 percent of the population; men 52.2 percent. (This distortion in the sex ratio is significantly higher than the country as a whole and is due to the presence of military installations, logging, fishing, and mining operations where males predominate.)

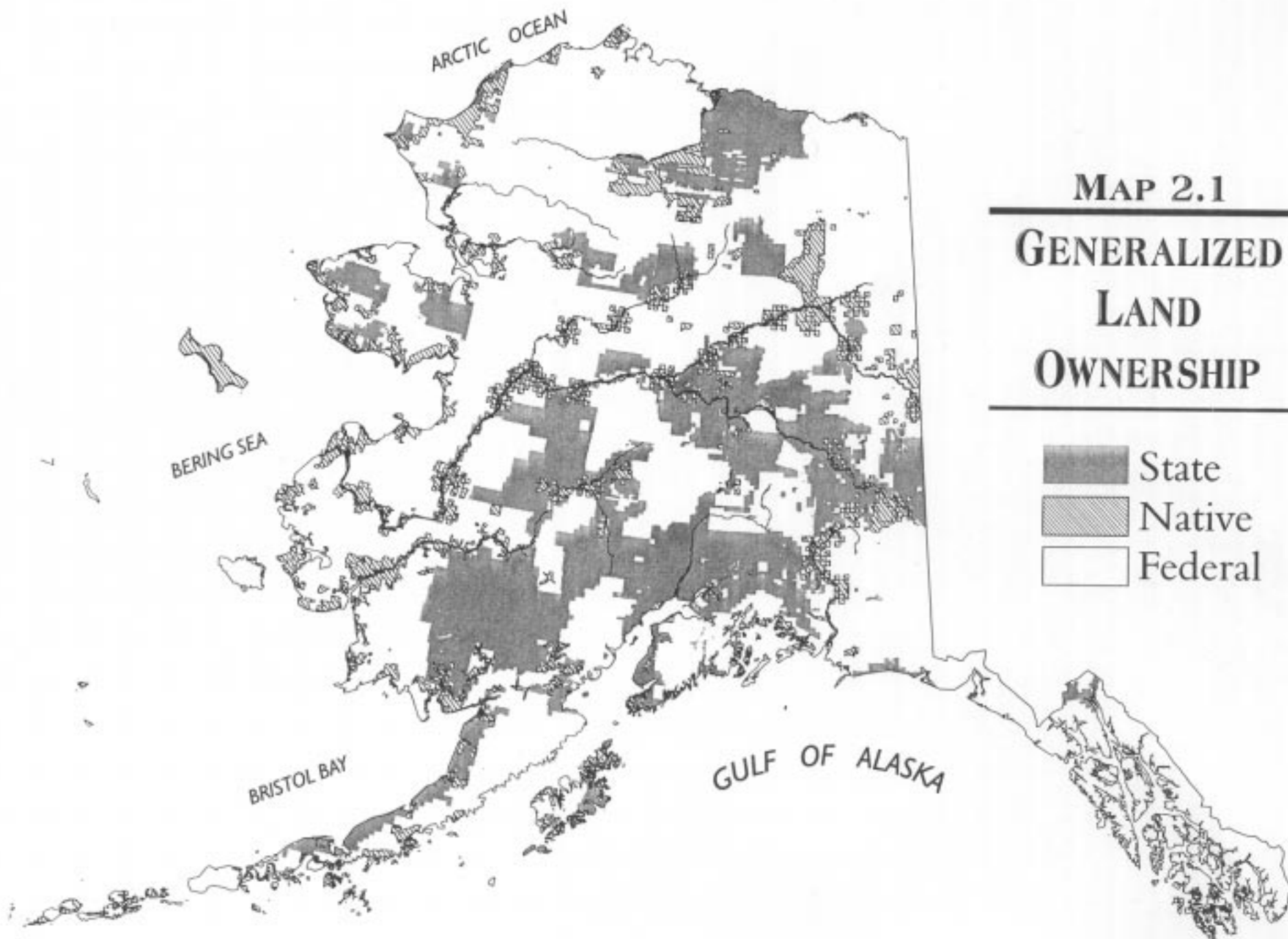
While nationwide, Native Americans comprise less than one percent of the population, and 4.4 percent of all U.S. Native Americans, 16.5 percent of all Alaskans are Natives. Native Alaskans include Aleuts, Inupiaq and Yu'pik Eskimos, and Athabaskan, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Indians.

Prior to this century, Native culture dominated Alaska. However, between 1890 and 1900, the gold rush brought the first great influx of non-Natives. In those 10 years, the total population doubled, with a sevenfold increase in non-Native peoples. The economic boom in the early 1980s led to a large in-migration of non-Natives. Today, Alaska Native cultures dominate in the northern and southwestern regions of the state, and particularly in the Yukon-Koyukuk region, where Alaska Natives comprise 69 percent of the population.

Figure 2.1 Race Composition in Alaska, July 1996

Caucasian	74.6%
Alaska Native	16.5%
African American	4.5%
Asian/Pacific	4.4%

Note: Persons of Hispanic origin comprise 4.3 percent of the population and may be of any race.



WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

Because much of Alaska is in federal or state ownership, most Alaskans live in cities, towns, villages, or clustered settlements. Just over 76 percent of Alaska's population in 1996 was contained in the following five boroughs: Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star, Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, and Juneau.

As of January 1998, there were 146 incorporated cities in Alaska (21 are considered urban, i.e., populations of 2,500 or greater). Approximately 71 percent of Alaskans live in urban settings. Forty-two percent of all Alaskans live in the Municipality of Anchorage. Over 200 rural villages have fewer than 1,000 residents.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From now until the year 2020, Alaska expects much slower growth in population. Population increase will likely average around 1.5 percent annually over the next 25 years. Based on what is known right now, Alaska's population in 2020 will most likely be about 40 percent larger than it is today, but it could be anywhere from 20 to 80 percent larger. Future growth, like past growth, will not be smooth but cyclical, although the cycles will likely be more moderate. As Alaska's population continues to age, the composition of population and households will likely continue to become more like that of the U.S. as a whole, moving toward fewer households with children and more non-family households.

NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED ECONOMY

Alaska's natural resource wealth is in the form of oil and gas resources, viewing scenic beauty, wilderness, fisheries, wildlife, timber, hard rock minerals, clean air and water, and arable land. Foremost in economic importance is oil, followed by tourism, seafood, mining, and timber (forest products).

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Alaskan oil fields produce 25 percent of the nation's oil. The economic impact of the oil and gas industry includes billions of dollars in royalties, rental, bonus, and severance taxes to the state. In Fiscal Year 1997, the oil industry paid over \$2.3 billion to the State of Alaska, accounting for 77 percent of the state's operating revenues.

TOURISM/VISITOR INDUSTRY

Marketing Alaska's scenery, fish, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and cultural resources to visitors (including Alaskans) is a major component of the Alaskan economy. In 1997, more than 1.3 million tourists visited Alaska, spending over \$952 million directly in-state. Much of the 900 million spent on travel to and from the state comes back to the state as landing/docking fees, fuel tax, wages, capital investments, and other expenditures by visitor businesses. Tourism is now the state's second largest private sector employer, providing one of every eight private sector jobs.

Some new trends suggest choices and opportunities for the industry. Growing interest in nature-based experiences has spurred considerable growth in this sector of the travel industry. The aging baby-boom population is moving into its prime travel years with high amounts of discretionary income, and has interest in a wide variety of vacation/travel experiences.

Travel to natural areas that incorporates the natural history of the environment, and preserves the integrity of the environment, while producing opportunities that make conservation of natural resources economically beneficial to local people, is a developing segment of the visitor industry in Alaska. Support for and careful development and management of this nature-based tourism in Alaska can offer opportunities to preserve wildland recreation while benefiting the economy.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Alaska's seafood industry, including both fishing and processing, has gone through a long period of expansion, driven by growing salmon harvests and development of the bottomfish industry. Fishing is important in coastal towns throughout Alaska. The 1995 annual average seafood employment was nearly 20,000. This is largely a seasonal industry, many workers are non-residents. More in-state processing could expand the industry.

MINING

Since World War II, Alaska's mining industry has expanded. In 1997, Alaska's total mineral production was valued at \$902 million, including gold, silver, lead, zinc, tin, coal, and industrial minerals. In total, the mining industry contributed almost \$1.1 billion to the Alaska economy. The industry employs the equivalent of about 4,000 full-time jobs.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Alaska's timber harvest in 1995 included 45 million board feet from state land, 234 million board feet from Southeast Native corporation land, 230 million board feet from Southcentral Native corporation land, and 221 million board feet from the Tongass National Forest. The total Southeast Alaska harvest of 461 million was the lowest since 1985 and has been declining steadily since 1992. Japan is the key export market for forest products, accounting for 62 percent of the total 1995 export value.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Economic trends have various implications for recreation demand and for soliciting financial support for providing recreation.

While Alaska will continue to have a resource based economy, the health of each resource sector cannot be easily predicted. Alaska's industries are generally controlled by non-Alaskan companies, and are therefore, heavily dependent on decisions made in broad national or world markets. Foremost in importance to Alaska's economic health is the price of oil and gas. While North Slope production is expected to drop by 30 percent over the next 10 years, the oil and gas industry would be stimulated by opening the federal lands on the North Slope to exploration.

The Interior boreal forests have tremendous potential for future value-added processing. Alaska has some of the largest, potentially commercial hardwood stands in the world. However, fragmented land ownership, high transportation costs, high capital investment, and political opposition have slowed the development of this resource. The Tongass Land Management Plan revision was completed in June of 1997. This plan will affect the future of Southeast Alaska's forest products industry. The plan established a maximum harvest level of 267 million board feet per year (a reduction from previous harvest levels which averaged approximately 390 million board feet per year). The reductions were made to provide increased protection for riparian, wildlife, recreation, and other resources. The completion of this plan should bring stability to timber harvest, albeit at a reduced level.

The mineral industry plays a significant role in the state's economy. In the fishing industry, competition from farmed seafood and from unexploited stocks (such as those in Siberia) could continue to reduce the value of Alaska stocks.

Alaska is a major travel destination competing with top destinations around the world and the demand for access to Alaska's scenic and recreation resources is expected to continue to grow. Of all Alaska's industries, tourism, including in-state and out-of-state visitors, may have the most potential for growth.

PLANNING REGIONS

In this plan, Alaska is divided into three regions, based primarily on settlement and lifestyle patterns. They are Southeast, Railbelt, and Rural Alaska, i.e., off the established road system (see Planning Regions, Map 2.2).

•Southeast

Southeast Alaska is characterized by lush, temperate rainforests of old growth hemlock and Sitka spruce at the base of rugged, glaciated peaks, and thousands of miles of coastline convoluted by fjords, inlets, and islands. Areas suitable for community and recreational development are limited and confined to narrow strips of coastal plains and lowlands. Southeast is home to 12 percent of Alaska's population.

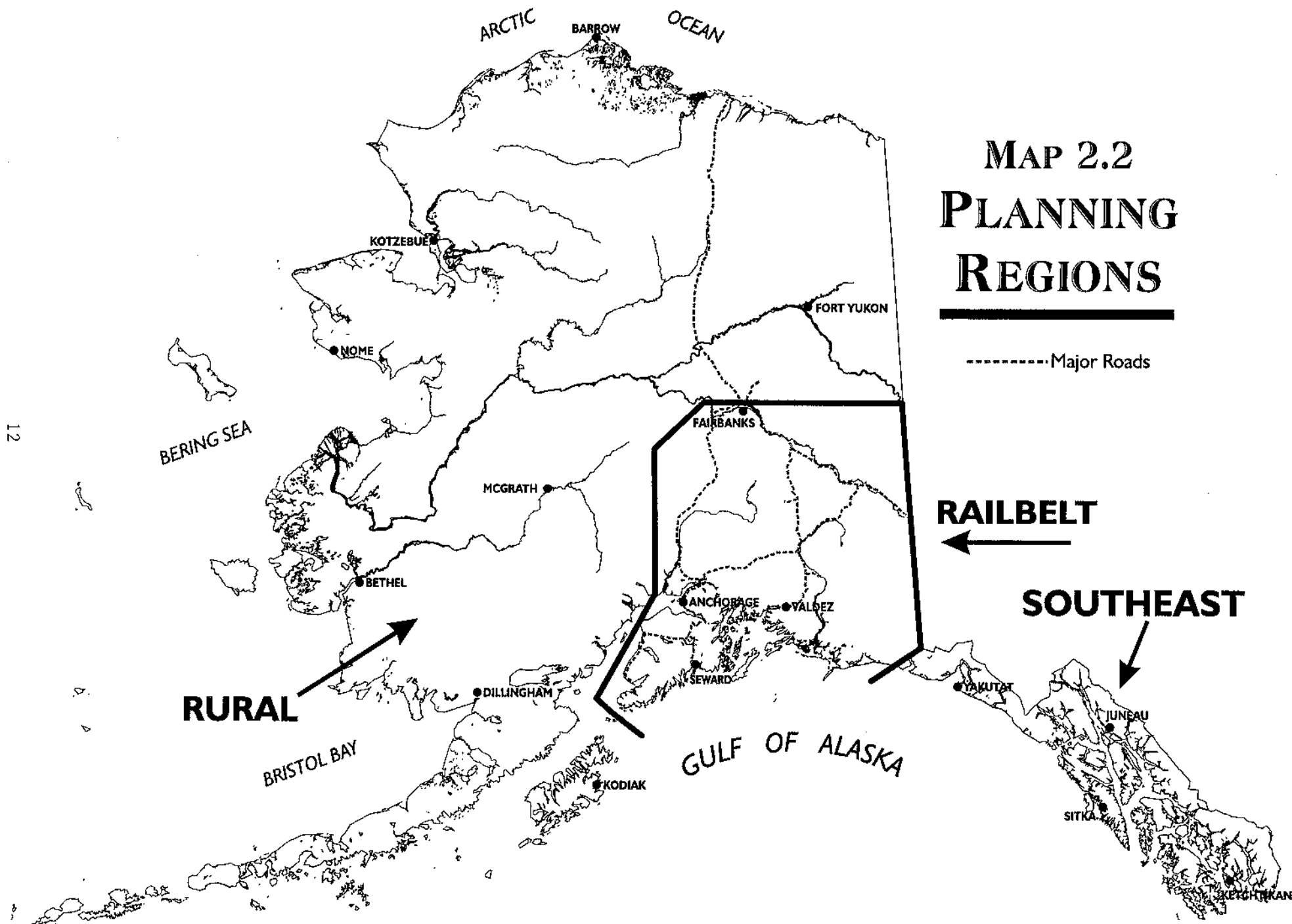
•Railbelt

Railbelt includes those urban and rural communities accessible from Alaska's limited road and rail system, generally from the southern end of the Kenai Peninsula, north to Fairbanks, and east to the Canadian border. This encompasses a large and diverse geographic area.

The central coastal area is similar in topography to the southeast region. Developable lowlands and plains have been utilized wherever possible. Prominent features include the Kenai, Chugach, and Wrangell mountains along the coast, and the fertile Matanuska and Susitna river valleys inland. Following the road system north and east, the landscape includes the high peaks of the Alaska Range (including Mt. McKinley), rolling hills, and broad river deltas. Seventy-three percent of Alaskans live in the railbelt region.

- Rural

Rural Alaska is also a large and geographically diverse area. Its topography includes features similar to inland railbelt areas, as well as the extensive wetlands of the northern coastal plain and Yukon and Kuskokwim river deltas, and the windswept Aleutian peninsula and archipelago. The maritime influence of the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, and Pacific Ocean predominate. It is the most sparsely populated and largest of the regions, and includes the highest percentage of Alaska Natives. Fifteen percent of Alaska's population lives in the rural region.



CHAPTER 3

ALASKA'S RECREATION RESOURCES

"If bread is the first necessity of life, recreation is a close second."

-Edward Bellamy

Alaskans generally participate in two broad categories of outdoor recreation: "wildland" or resource-based recreation, and community-based recreation.

WILDLANDS RECREATION

Love of the outdoors is a major part of the fabled "Alaskan lifestyle." Alaskans participate in wildlands recreation at twice the rate of the rest of the country. Wildland recreation in Alaska includes a wide spectrum of popular activities, from fishing, hunting, hiking, skiing, bird watching, snowmobiling, ORV riding, wildlife viewing, recreational mining, to mountaineering, whitewater rafting, spelunking, dog mushing, ocean kayaking, and power boating.

In addition to recreation values, wildlands play an increasingly important role in the economy of Alaska. As the demand for outdoor-related recreation and tourism by Alaskans and other visitors expands, the value of accessible public wildlands (and surrounding private land) grows. Wildlands also play an important role in environmental education programs for all ages (from elementary schools to Elderhostel), therapeutic programs for the physically challenged, and self-esteem and wilderness skills workshops for troubled youths.

Prerequisites for providing these kinds of opportunities are found on large private land holdings, and on open space and public access to lands in public ownership. Alaska contains a generous supply of public land, but access can be difficult or limited by land ownership, geography, and distance.

LANDS DESIGNATED FOR WILDLAND RECREATION

While most of Alaska's 322 million acres of public lands are available for recreation, about 168 million acres, or 46 percent of Alaska, is managed for wildland recreation. Sixty percent of America's national park acreage, the country's largest state park system, and the nation's two largest national forests (the Tongass in Southeast with 17 million acres, and Chugach in Southcentral with 5.7 million acres), though not managed exclusively for recreation, are located in Alaska.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) placed large parts of Alaska in the nation's conservation, wilderness, and recreation systems, wild and scenic rivers, forests, wildlife refuges, and parks. Combined with the older federal reserves and an expanding state park system, these designations create opportunities for outdoor recreation unsurpassed anywhere.

Twenty-five Alaskan rivers and over 3,200 river miles are protected under the National Wild and Scenic River designation. Additionally, there are six legislatively designated State Recreation Rivers, encompassing 460 river miles and 260,000 upland acres. Approximately 12 percent of state

land is under some form of legislative designation that protects or enhances wildland recreation. Approximately 82.4 million acres of federal land and 400,000 acres of state land are designated as wilderness.

Alaska's state parks are the primary roadside gateways to outdoor recreation.

In addition, millions of acres of general state-owned land (managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land) and federal domain land (managed by the Bureau of Land Management) are open to year-round wildland recreation. These lands are becoming increasingly popular. There are few regulations imposed on users of these lands. The State also owns about 65 million acres of tidelands, coastal submerged lands, and lands under navigable waters, all having virtually unlimited potential for wildland recreation.

Figure 3.1 - Wildland Recreation Lands & Agencies

AGENCY	ACRES (Millions)	UNITS	NOTES
US Fish & Wildlife Service	76.8	16	16 wildlife refuges (compatible recreation allowed); including 6 National Wild & Scenic Rivers, 21 wilderness areas)
National Park Service	54.7	15	15 parks, preserves and monuments (including 13 National Wild & Scenic Rivers, 7 wilderness areas)
US Forest Service	22.8	2	National forests (19 wilderness areas, 2 monuments)
Alaska State Parks	3.2	119	Historic parks, recreation sites, parks, marine parks; state trail systems; public use facilities; preserve; special management areas
Alaska Division of Land	2.6	12	4 public use areas; 6 state recreational rivers; 2 recreational mining sites
Alaska Department of Fish & Game	3.2	50	17 critical habitat areas; 10 game refuges (compatible recreation allowed); 3 sanctuaries; 18 access sites; 2 range areas
US Bureau of Land Management	2.7	9	2 land units; 6 National Wild & Scenic Rivers; 1 historic trail
Alaska Division of Forestry	2.1	2	2 state forests
TOTAL	168.1	225	

REGIONS

•Southeast

Most of Alaska's southeast region is encompassed by the Tongass National Forest (17 million acres), administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Park Service manages 3.3 million acres and three park units. Alaska State Parks manages about 80,000 acres and 34 park units, including 16 marine parks. The Department of Fish and Game manages two state wildlife refuges, two critical habitat areas, and a wildlife sanctuary in Southeast Alaska. The Alaska Division of Forestry manages 247,000 acres in the Haines State Forest.

•Railbelt

Because of the region's urban population and developed road system, the railbelt is the home of many wildland recreation users and contains many popular destinations. It also contains half of the state's most-visited attractions.

The bulk of the state park system acreage and units (78 units, including 19 marine parks) lie within the railbelt region including Chugach, Denali, and Kachemak Bay state parks. Additionally, nearly 20 million acres of national park land, including Kenai Fjords National Park, Denali National Park and Preserve, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the 1.9 million-acre Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the 5.7 million-acre Chugach National Forest, and 16 state special areas (critical habitat areas, sanctuaries, and refuges) are located within this region. The Tanana Valley State Forest has 1.8 million acres.

•Rural

Most of the public lands available for wildland recreation in rural Alaska are part of the national wildlife refuge system. Approximately 73.5 million acres, or 95 percent, of Alaska's national wildlife refuge acreage, and nine of Alaska's 15 national parks are located in rural Alaska. The nation's largest state park, Wood-Tikchik State Park (1.6 million acres), and 6 other state parks are also found in this region. The Department of Fish and Game manages 10 special areas in rural Alaska, including the McNeil River and Walrus Island sanctuaries. Native corporation lands, scattered throughout the state but primarily in rural areas, are private land and not generally accessible to the general public without permission.

WILDLAND RECREATION FACILITIES

Despite this abundance of high value recreation lands, some wildland recreation opportunities are in short supply. Facilities such as campgrounds, trails, trailheads, cabins, boat launches, and other facilities are often the critical link between users and otherwise "wild" and inaccessible lands, especially along the road system and in the railbelt region. In many parts of the state, facilities, even if primitive or limited in number, make the difference between a potential outdoor experience and a reality.

The last comprehensive inventory of Alaska's recreation facilities was included in the 1992-1996 SCORP. The following chart contains updated estimates based on inquiries and research during 1997 and winter of 1998. Note that these are estimates only. Contact agency land managers for specific information.

Much of Alaska's premier wildland recreation resources (particularly in the southeast and rural regions) are accessible only by plane or boat. Additionally, not all uses are allowed in all areas, i.e. agencies have missions to manage for different opportunities and may restrict or prohibit some uses. This places a heavy burden on road accessible and railbelt facilities. They are often filled past capacity. Construction of new or expanded facilities is expensive and often creates more demand, attracting more users. Consequently, facility demand continues to exceed facility supply throughout most of the state.

Despite its relatively small land holding (by Alaska standards), Alaska State Parks is the largest state park system in America. It ranks 35th in visitation, and is the State's largest provider of wildland recreation facilities. In 1997, because of their proximity to roads and urban centers, state park units hosted 3 times the visitation of Alaska's national parks. From July 96-June 97, Alaska State Parks had over 4,500,000 visits. Additionally, state parks and facilities often serve as community recreation areas for residents of the larger urban areas. Forty-six percent of public land campgrounds in the state are Alaska State Park campgrounds.

Figure 3.2 - Developed Wildland Recreation Facilities (numbers in parentheses indicate disabled accessible facilities) - 1998 estimates. Note that numbers are for specifically developed and maintained facilities; not all agencies submitted all numbers.

Agency	AK State Parks	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service	US Forest Service	AK Dept of Fish & Game
Campgrounds/campsites	74/2,540	12(4)/160 (16)	21/222	15(5)/398(43)	30/604	4/100
Public cabins/shelters	62 (5)	17 (1)	9	21 (1)	187	0
Visitor centers	9	8 (7)	2	23*(23)	5	1
Boat launches/docks/ramps	38	8 (1)		4 (1)		
Wildlife viewing/interpretation	9 (4)	23 (15)		15 (14)		
# of trails	180 (23)	35 (4)		24 (4)		
# of trails maintained in summer	180	3		14		
# of trails maintained in winter	85	2		4		
Miles of trails motorized	237	130	741	8.5		20
Miles of trails non-motorized	1,330	412	1,060	62	669	10
# of trailheads	106 (34)	2		17 (6)		
# of trailheads maintained in winter	28			15		
# of trailheads maintained in summer	80	2		5		

* Includes 4 Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Tok, Ketchikan), 1 shared with US Forest Service (Ketchikan), 1 State of Alaska (Tok). All disabled accessible.

Note: The next SCORP will attempt to differentiate between snowmobile (winter) and off-road (summer) motorized use.

US Fish and Wildlife Service also reports 42 miles of refuge roads, 500 miles of marine highway, and 150 miles of canoe trails. In addition, Alaska has much public undeveloped use area and off-trail acreage, and thousands of miles of unmaintained trails, including temporary and logging roads.

ROADS AS OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) is also one of the most important providers of recreation within the state. Alaskans rely on roads for a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities. Alaska has over 13,250 miles of public roads, approximately 26 percent (or 3,500 miles) of which are paved. Most recreation occurs along, or is accessed from the road system. Viewing wildlife and scenery from vehicles and bicycling along roads are important components of the state's visitor industry, including resident recreation. Alaska's size in relation to its road corridors often makes it costly to explore. Visitors and Alaskans concentrate in these several travel corridors.

In addition, this department oversees the Alaska Marine Highway System, with 3,500 miles of saltwater ferry routes, which also play an important part in Alaska recreation. Ferries operate year round and provide transportation, lodging, and food, with ferry service levels highest during the summer season.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

Community recreation fills a very different niche for Alaskans and plays an important role in serving daily recreation needs. Community recreation is often family or school-oriented and includes a wide spectrum of activities, including outdoor court and field sports (e.g., tennis, basketball, softball, soccer), open field activities (e.g., remote control models, picnicking, tot lots), golf, hockey or ice skating, alpine skiing, picnic and playground activities, outdoor target shooting (archery, pistol, etc.) and trail-related activities, such as bicycling, snowmobiling, equestrian sports, cross country skiing, jogging, and walking for fitness.

Community recreation plays an important role in Alaska's urban areas, it is especially meaningful in southeast and rural communities where leisure time programs are in short supply. In many of Alaska's primarily Native communities, activities often associated with recreation, such as hunting, trapping, fishing, or berry picking, are important subsistence activities, often undertaken more for economic or cultural reasons, rather than for recreation value.

COMMUNITY RECREATION LAND

The following chart shows an updated estimate of public community recreation lands in Alaska, based on the 1992 SCORP and updated information from communities and boroughs.

The Municipality of Anchorage, with 42 percent of the state's population, manages approximately 14,000 acres of park land (nearly 50 percent of the state's total community park lands). The North Star Borough reports nearly 4,000 acres of dedicated park land, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 500 dedicated acres.

Figure 3.3 - Community Recreation Land

Region	Estimated acres	% of total municipal park acreage	% of state population
Southeast	3,500	11.6	12
Railbelt	24,230	80.1	73
Rural	2,500	8.3	15
TOTAL	30,230	100	100

Though many rural communities (often surrounded by wildlands) report they have no community park lands, numbers indicate that park land acreage for each region mirrors regional population percentages. This is consistent with the results of the informal statewide survey of community recreation providers conducted by Alaska State Parks in winter 1998. Respondents from each region generally report their greatest outdoor recreation needs are for facilities, not land. (See Chapter 4 for more information on regional outdoor recreation needs and priorities.)

COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES

As part of the same survey, community recreation providers were asked to complete a facility inventory form. Statewide, the response rate was approximately 37 percent: 73 percent of railbelt communities, 56 percent of southeast communities, and 26 percent of rural communities responded to the survey. Possible reasons for not responding include reduced staff time, the fact that many communities and boroughs do not have recreation powers or authority, and that many communities have no facilities to report. Survey results provide insights into relative supply of facilities.

According to results of the winter 1997 community provider informal mail out survey, most of the state's community outdoor recreation facilities are located in the railbelt, followed by southeast, then rural.

•Southeast

Southeast community outdoor recreation facilities are concentrated in its larger communities and urban areas. Outside these areas, the region is characterized by a shortage of facilities, especially in small, remote, predominantly Native Alaskan communities.

The most commonly reported facilities are (in descending order) campsites, picnic areas and tot lots, play fields, and boat launches. Campsites are reported in those communities catering to the visitor industry, but not available for recreation use in small communities. The number and miles of trails, winter facilities, target shooting areas, and golf courses reported were low.

•Railbelt

Railbelt communities are the state's largest providers of community outdoor recreation facilities. The Municipality of Anchorage, which has 120 park units, is the single greatest provider of community recreation in Alaska.

New railbelt facilities reported in 1997 with the highest numbers were campsites, trails, recreational diamonds/fields, picnic areas/playgrounds, recreational courts, winter recreation facilities, and boat ramps. Responding communities report over 300 new campsites, 16 winter sports facilities (e.g.,

outdoor skating and hockey rinks or sledding areas), 5 public golf courses, nearly 140 developed trails (for multi-use), and 5 public target shooting areas.

Shortages in this region are, for the most part, characterized by the inability to keep up with growing resident and non-resident demand.

- Rural

Rural Alaska is characterized by a severe shortage of outdoor recreation facilities.

The most common outdoor recreation facilities in rural communities are (in descending order) picnic areas and tot lots, boat launches, court facilities, and play fields. Respondents often cite the need for camping areas. Many reported that a play field or tot lot was the community's only outdoor recreation facility, and several reported having no outdoor recreation facilities of any kind.

For all regions, most notable is the increasing number of disabled accessible facilities available: campsites, picnic and play areas, and recreational fields were the 3 most reported in all 3 regions.

PRIVATE SECTOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Private sector recreation opportunities, including access, facilities, and services, have increased greatly in the 1990s. Guide services, visitor packages and package tours, private RV parks, campgrounds, visitor facilities from golf courses to lodges, and permits to use private land for a variety of access and activities abound.

Large private land holdings, such as those owned by Native corporations, may offer access by permit or fee or with landowner consent. Certain easements are reserved for the public for limited, specific uses. Some Native lands are closed.

Many businesses form associations for marketing their services, and for forming partnerships with the public and land managers. For example, the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA) is a trade association of over 250 Alaskan wilderness travel businesses (approximately 55 statewide, 75 in Southcentral, 35 in Interior/far north, 75 in Southeast, and 20 in Southwest Alaska). Its mission is to support stewardship of the wild in Alaska and development of healthy, diverse travel businesses and communities by linking businesses, community, and conservation interests. Another example is the Alaska Campground Owners Association, with about 43 private member campgrounds with 3,450 campsites (mostly RV) in the Railbelt area, and 7 member campgrounds with 275 sites in Southeast. The public does not have to belong to either organization to use any of its services or facilities.

The private sector also provides recreation opportunities such as golf courses, wildlife parks, boat docks/marinas, overnight facilities, motorized racing speedways, and skating rinks. The range of private facilities is diverse. Most occur in the Railbelt area, followed by Southeast. And, many private concessionaires operate on public and private land.

CHAPTER 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION PATTERNS, TRENDS, AND NEEDS

*"I have laid aside business, and gone a-fishing."
-Izaak Walton*

To identify what Alaskans currently do for outdoor recreation and what opportunities are desired for the future, Alaska State Parks conducted a statewide household telephone survey during October 1997, collected mail out survey information from recreation providers in winter 1998, and held 16 community workshops throughout the state (see appendices for survey results and comparisons, and public comments).

Through a contract with an Alaskan research firm, households throughout the state were contacted and surveyed by telephone. Respondents were questioned about their outdoor recreation activities and preferences, and their attitudes towards revenue generating programs to fund recreation facilities and programs.

In addition to recording public opinion at community workshops, Alaska State Parks mailed a survey form to each of Alaska's local government units (162 first and second class cities, municipalities, and boroughs). The survey asked outdoor recreation providers to identify the most significant outdoor recreation needs of their community and regional area (see Appendix A for a copy of the form).

RESIDENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

Six hundred (600) households, with equal numbers from each of the three regions, were randomly selected and interviewed by telephone. To be eligible to participate in the survey, respondents had to be at least 18 years old and a legal resident of Alaska. The number of male and female respondents was equal. The average age of respondents was 41 years old (mean of 41.2, median of 39.8).

VALUE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TO ALASKANS

Alaskans place a high value on the availability and quality of outdoor recreation opportunities: 92 percent of all respondents said parks and outdoor recreation were important or very important to their lifestyle.

The Alaska Recreation and Park Association (an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association, open to anyone wishing to support, promote, and improve park and recreation services in Alaska) recognizes four areas of recreation benefits that enhance quality of life: personal (such as fitness, relaxation, leisure, play); social (including community recreation that builds strong families and communities, promotes healthy social behaviors and ethnic and cultural harmony); economic (investment in recreation positively affects businesses, visitor industry, and a fit populace who then are more productive in the workplace); and environmental (environmental health, protection, and insurance for the future).

Alaskans demonstrate these values and benefits by their willingness to purchase outdoor recreation equipment (see Figure 4.1 in this chapter).

WHAT ALASKANS DO FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Respondents were asked if they participated in any of 37 different outdoor recreation activities during the 12 month period prior to the survey, and if so, how many times. (Because the duration of each experience wasn't asked, the number of times should not be interpreted as number of days. However, for some activities, such as walking, sledding, or court games, this is probably a correct assumption.)

Based on the percent of the population reporting participation in the activity at least once during the previous year, the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities in 1997 are identified in the figures in this chapter:

Figure 4.2 - Percent Of Population Participating In Outdoor Recreation Activities At Least Once During 1997.

Figure 4.3 - Participation Frequency (number of times per year)

Figure 4.4 - Alaskans' Favorite Outdoor Recreation Activities

Figure 4.5 - What Alaskans Would Like To Do More Often For Outdoor Recreation.

Based on the percent of the population engaged in the activity and the average number of times of participation in each activity, figures were weighted to more accurately reflect overall participation rates. The main reasons for not participating in activities were lack of time and lack of equipment.

PROXIMITY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO HOME

Respondents were asked about where (in relation to their community) they usually recreated, i.e. within the community, within an hour's travel time, or farther than an hour.

In general, walking for fitness, playground sports, court games, sledding, trail skiing, dog mushing, picnicking, target shooting, bird watching/wildlife viewing, and swimming occur most often within communities. Most backcountry skiing and rock climbing occurs within an hour's traveling time from the community. The majority of tent camping (in a campground), driving for pleasure, back country camping, fishing, RV camping, power boating, canoeing/rafting, beach combing, snowmobiling, and hunting opportunities, as examples, occur more than an hour away from home.

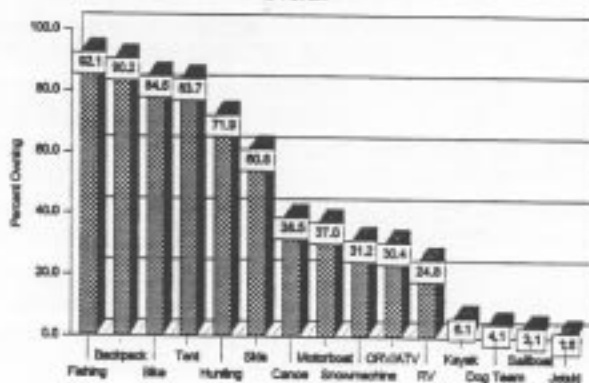
SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The majority of respondents report general satisfaction with the outdoor recreation opportunities in their community, and within an hour's travel time (71 percent and 65 percent, respectively).

FIGURE 4.1

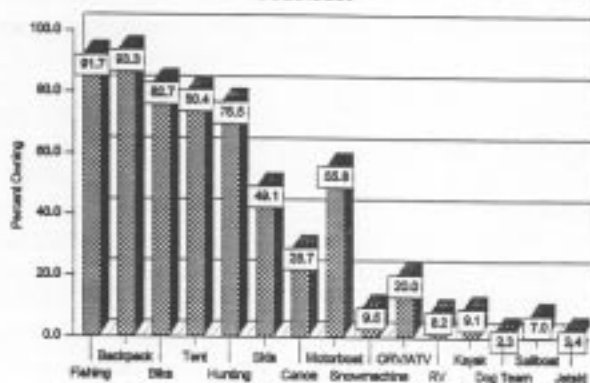
EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP

By Household
Overall



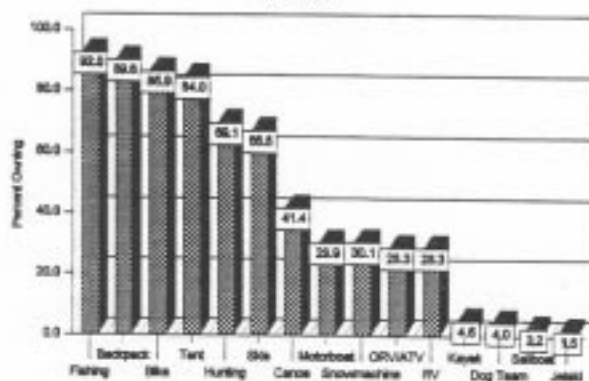
EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP

By Household
Southeast



EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP

By Household
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EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP

By Household
Rural

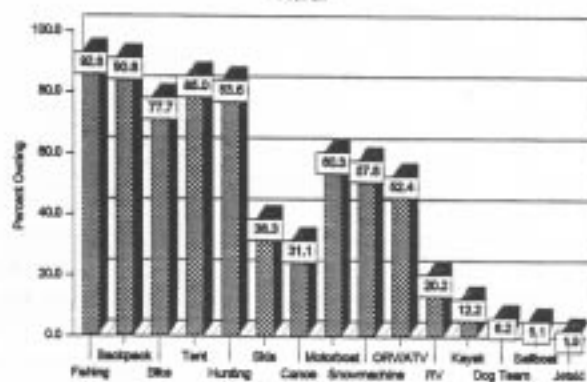
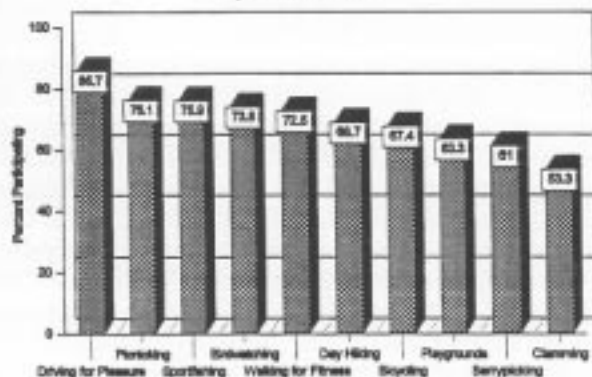


FIGURE 4.2

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

One or more times in the
past 12 months

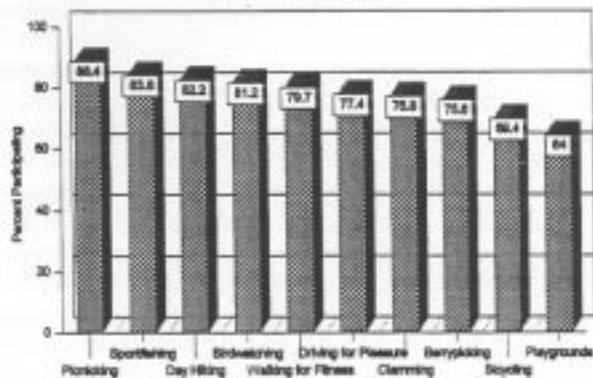
Top Ten - Overall



PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

One or more times in the
past 12 months

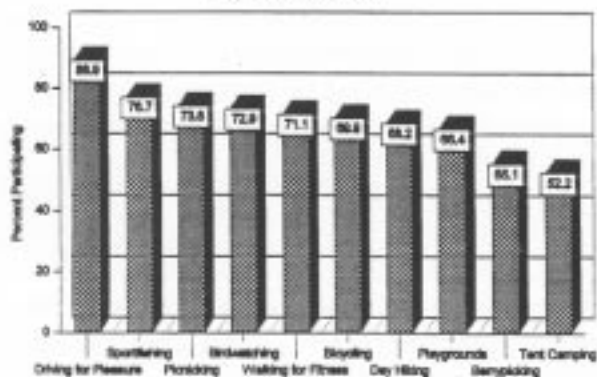
Top Ten - Southeast



PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

One or more times in the
past 12 months

Top Ten - Railbelt



PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

One or more times in the
past 12 months

Top Ten - Rural

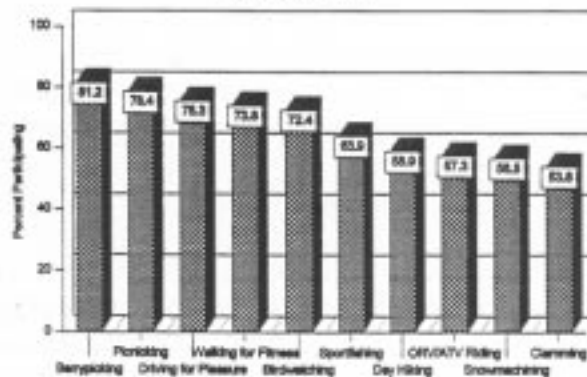
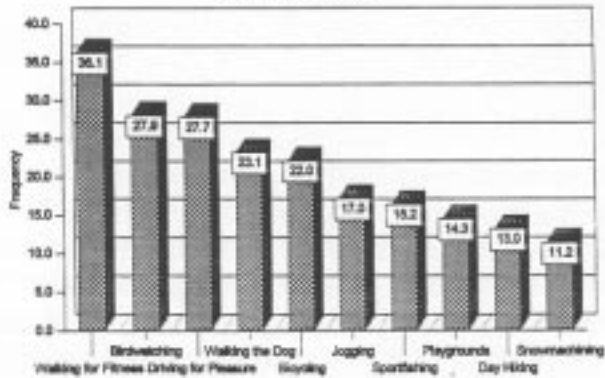


FIGURE 4.3

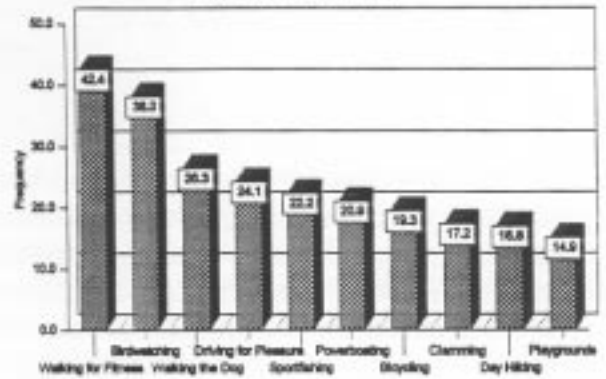
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FREQUENCY

Total Mean
Top Ten - Overall



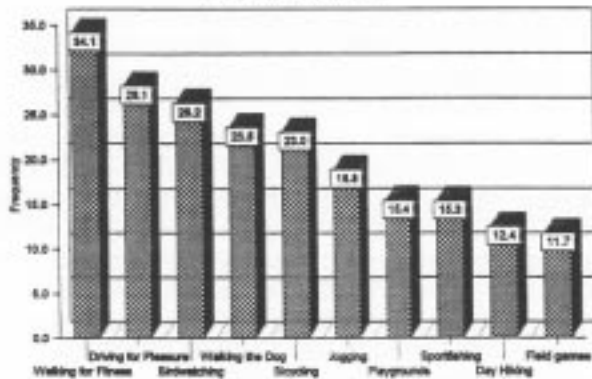
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FREQUENCY

Total Mean
Top Ten - Southeast



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FREQUENCY

Total Mean
Top Ten - Railbelt



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FREQUENCY

Total Mean
Top Ten - Rural

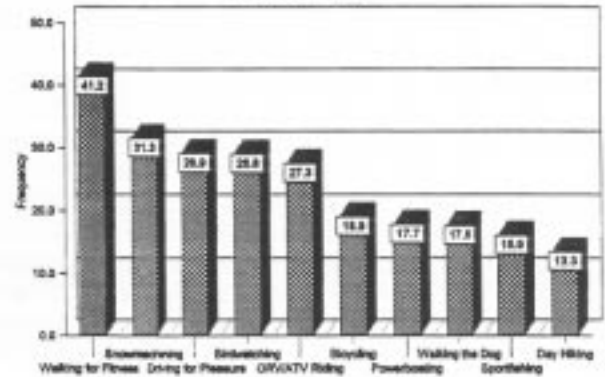
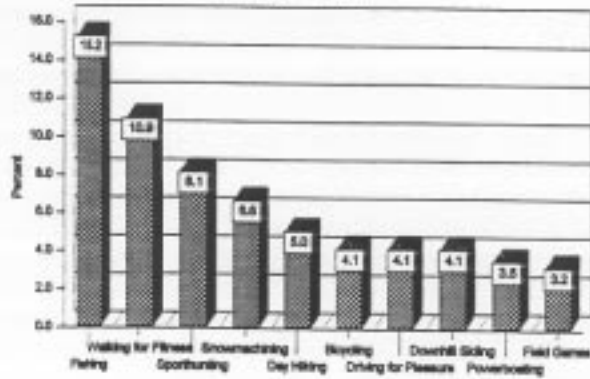


FIGURE 4.4

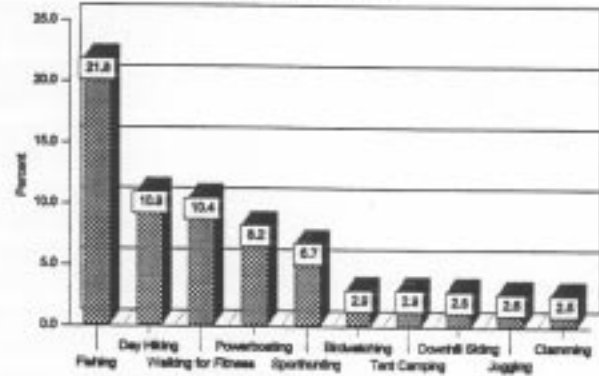
FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Top Ten - Overall



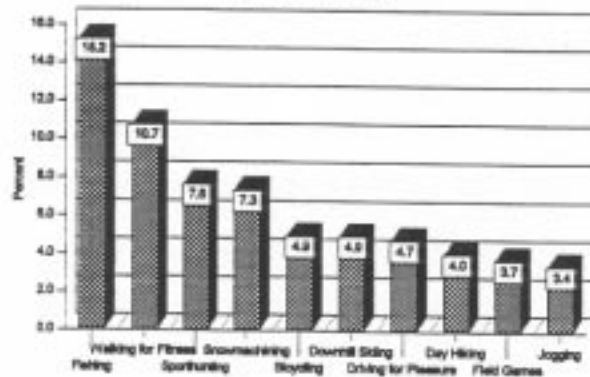
FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Top Ten - Southeast



FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Top Ten - Railbelt



FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Top Ten - Rural

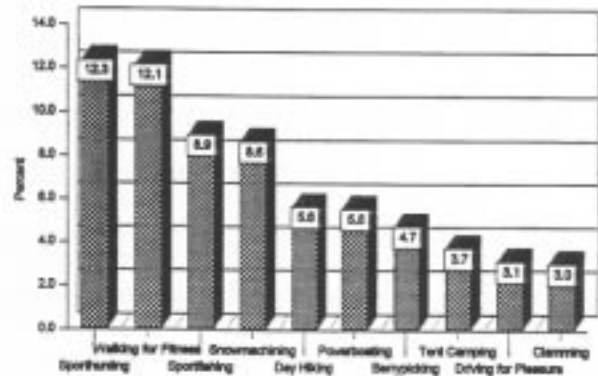
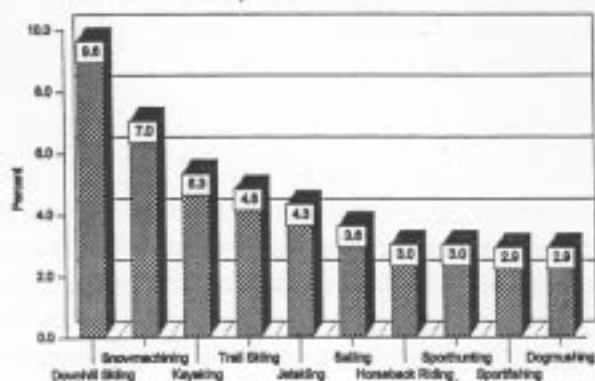


FIGURE 4.5

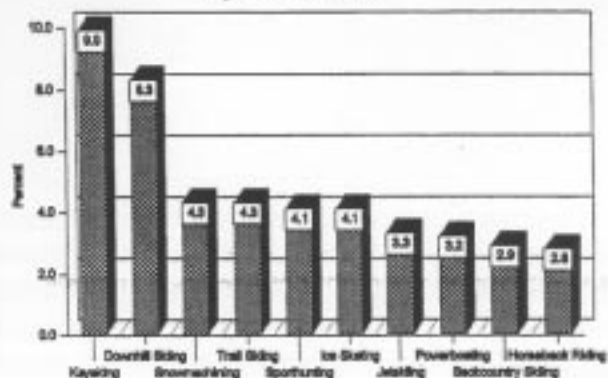
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY YOU DID NOT DO THAT YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO DO

Top Ten - Overall



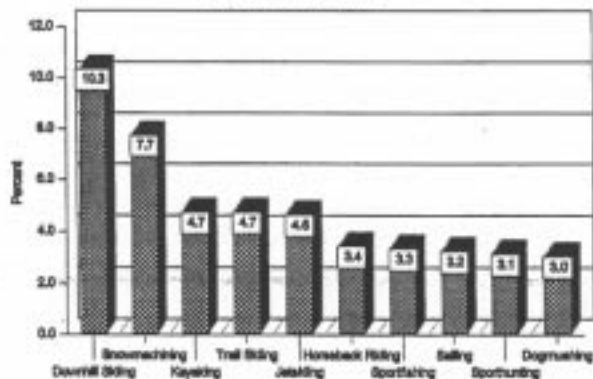
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY YOU DID NOT DO THAT YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO DO

Top Ten - Southeast



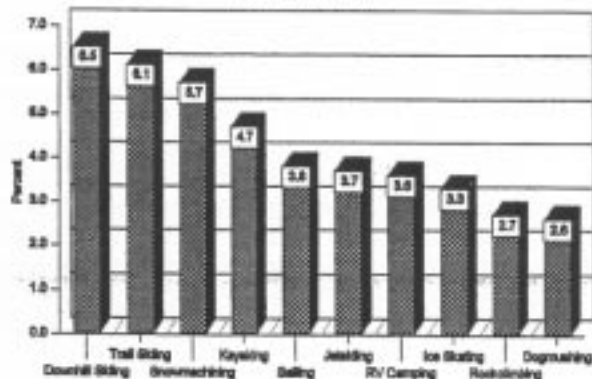
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY YOU DID NOT DO THAT YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO DO

Top Ten - Rallbelt



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY YOU DID NOT DO THAT YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO DO

Top Ten - Rural



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The most significant difference between regions is the level of satisfaction with facilities. Railbelt residents registered the highest level of satisfaction, followed by southeast, then rural. The most common reason for dissatisfaction among rural residents is the shortage or absence of recreation facilities within their community or within an hour's traveling time. However, before developing new facilities, all 3 regions overwhelmingly support maintaining existing facilities (southeast 76.3 percent, railbelt 78.7 percent, rural 69.5 percent).

Comparing resident responses by region, southeast residents are the strongest supporters of trailheads and non-motorized trails, more picnic areas, boat launches, new park areas, and an expanded cabin system. The railbelt, with 73 percent of the state's population, experiences more crowding of park facilities than other regions. Railbelt residents are the strongest supporters of more off road vehicle trails, roadside toilets, RV campgrounds, dump stations, and tent campgrounds. Rural residents were the strongest supporters of more recreation programs, more visitor centers and tourist resorts, upgrading park roads and campgrounds (water and toilets), and more disabled access.

Rural residents are almost twice as likely as railbelt residents to own powerboats; railbelt residents are considerably more likely than others to own bicycles and ski equipment; and rural residents have more hunting equipment, dog teams, ORV/ATVs, kayaks, and snowmobiles. Sportfishing is the favorite activity of southeast and railbelt residents. Sport hunting, also an important subsistence activity, is the favorite activity among rural community residents.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

While participation rates for most activities decline predictably with age, the highest rate of participation in sport fishing is among Alaskans over 40. Additionally, participation in day hiking and walking for fitness are consistent among all age groups.

Beyond those few activities that demand a significant financial outlay in order to participate, (e.g. skis, powerboats, golf), behavior and attitudes between different income groups is not significantly different.

Males participate more often in shooting, golf, ORV/ATV riding, court games, power boating, snowmobiling, sport fishing, and hunting. Women participate in greater numbers in sledding, swimming, walking for fitness, kayaking, horse riding, and back country skiing.

The two favorite activities among men are fishing and hunting. Fishing is the second favorite activity, with walking for fitness the favorite, among women.

Marital status appears to have substantial effect on recreation patterns and equipment ownership. Married couples fish considerably more often than single people; fishing is the clear favorite activity of married men. Married women's participation in activities such as fishing and hunting are dramatically higher than those of single women. More single than married people tent camp and backpack.

Married men overall own more outdoor equipment than other groups, except for tents, bikes, and dog teams, where married women own slightly more.

Families with children are more likely to participate in berry picking, biking, clamming, field games, picnicking, and open space activities than their counterparts without children. Kayaking and RV camping are participated in more readily by childless households.

Households with children are more inclined to be dissatisfied with current community facilities and opportunities, and to support the suggestion that more recreation programs be provided, and more parks established.

ATTITUDES ON FACILITIES, MANAGEMENT, AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

Respondents were asked a series of value statements to determine what kind of facilities or experiences they would like, and the trade-offs they were willing to make to pay for them.

There was strong to moderate public support for all the proposed park facility improvements and developments. Respondents were also questioned on their support for the development of more trailheads (76 percent support) along roads and highways, more non-motorized trails (74 percent support), and more off-road vehicle trails (56 percent support).

Figure 4.6 - Support for Facility Improvements and Developments

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	% SUPPORT
Disabled accessible facilities	86
Public use cabins	79
Tent campgrounds	77
Trailheads along roads	76
Roadside toilets	74
Non-motorized trails	74
Road upgrade (park roads)	71
Picnic areas	68
New parks	67
RV dump stations	64
Boat launches	63
Recreation programs	61
Water/toilets in campgrounds	59
Off-road-vehicle trails	56
RV campgrounds	52
Visitor centers	49
Tourist resort facilities	41

Despite strong support for the facilities and improvements mentioned above, when presented with the choice of using limited funds for facility development or maintenance, 77 percent of respondents favored maintaining current facilities.

Alaskans want better access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Sixty percent responded that the state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities. Fifty-eight percent support improved access to military lands for outdoor recreation purposes.

Over 60 percent of households report that facilities are often crowded when they want to use them; 70 percent support limiting facility use when they become too crowded. Although 66 percent said there were enough parks and outdoor recreation lands convenient and accessible to them, 67 percent support establishing new parks and recreation areas.

Eighty-three percent believe the state should increase its protection of areas with historic or archaeological value; 59 percent support the use of park land to promote tourism. Sixty-four percent believe that parks and outdoor recreation programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency.

In addition, 59 percent said trails should accommodate different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number; 51 percent said hearing motorized vehicles or motors negatively affects their recreation experience; conversely, 49 percent said it does not.

Eighty-five percent agree that if overcrowding occurs, commercial uses in parks should be limited before personal uses are limited.

SUPPORT FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY

Respondents were asked about five different proposals to help fund the development and maintenance of park facilities, and outdoor recreation programs throughout the state. The percent of support is included in parentheses.

- Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees (87 percent).
- Allocate a portion of annual all-terrain vehicle registration fees (85 percent).
- Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees (84 percent).
- Impose a one penny per gallon tax on gasoline (49 percent).
- Impose a small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear (43 percent).

When asked if willing to pay user fees for maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities, 81 percent said yes. If a statewide bond issue were put on a general election ballot to fund parks and outdoor recreation programs, 65 percent said they would vote for it. Sixty-nine percent said they would purchase a \$10 pin with sales going to help fund outdoor programs.

A copy of the telephone survey and responses to each of the questions is located in Appendix A.

OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS 1992 -1997

See Appendix B for a comparison of the 1992 and 1997 statewide telephone survey results. In addition to asking about all activities included in the 1992 survey, the 1997 survey included several new activities and questions. These are identified by "N/A" (not applicable) in the comparisons. A few old questions were removed. Comments and possible reasons are provided to help interpret the comparisons.

Military base downsizing in Alaska has impacted the amount of recreational use on some wildlife refuges in Alaska. At the peak there were more than 5,500 military personnel at Adak. Their primary uses of the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime Refuge included fishing, hunting, public use cabins, wildlife viewing, and visitor services provided on the road system and in the Adak visitor center. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has accordingly reduced its staff at that location to a caretaker status. With the closures of Shemya and Attu, recreational use in those areas has also reduced to a low level. The Ft. Greeley closure in Delta Junction will have a small impact on the hunting and fishing use of the Tetlin Refuge. The closure of the King Salmon and Galena air bases showed a substantial reduction in use by military personnel on the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof and the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge complexes. The overall civilian use on the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Complex continues to grow as private industry in the area continues to grow. Military personnel use from Ft. Wainwright in Fairbanks and Elmendorf Airforce Base and Ft. Richardson in Anchorage, remains constant, and is a large recreation component of the railbelt population, both by active and retired personnel.

COMMUNITY PROVIDER SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 162 community outdoor recreation providers throughout the state were asked to rank in order of importance the outdoor recreation needs in their communities and regions. The categories provided were:

- Park land acquisition
- Developed facilities
- Recreation programs
- Disabled access
- Maintenance of existing facilities
- Other

Fifty-one communities (35 percent of the communities surveyed) and 9 of 16 boroughs (56 percent) responded. The Municipality of Anchorage is included in the results. Responses are shown below by region.

Figure 4.7 - Comparison Ranking of Community Outdoor Recreation Needs by Region (numbers in parentheses show 1992 order of importance, for comparison over time)

REGION	LAND	FACILITIES	PROGRAMS	ACCESS	MAINT.	OTHER
Southeast	4 (4)	1 (1)	2 (3)	5 (5)	3 (4)	6 (2)
Railbelt	4 (5)	1 (1)	5 (6)	3 (4)	2 (2)	6 (3)
Rural	4 (3)	1 (1)	3 (4)	5 (4)	2 (6)	6 (2)

Developed facilities continue to be the highest priority in all 3 regions. Maintenance, overall, is now the second priority (with the rural region showing a dramatic change in maintenance priority). Each region increased its recreation programs priority by one, and land acquisition shows a slight priority over disabled access needs (all communities responding indicated more disabled facilities available now than ever before, and that need for disabled facilities and access are still important).

FACILITY NEEDS BY COMMUNITY AND REGION

Responding community outdoor recreation providers identified the following specific facility needs for their communities (in order of priority):

■Southeast Community Facility Needs (56 percent responding):

1. Campgrounds; Community parks (picnic/play areas).
2. Trails.
3. Recreational courts/fields.
4. Boat ramps; Restrooms; Upgrading facilities.
5. Swim area; Winter sports area; Harbors; Recreation complex; Target range.

(The top 3 categories were identified twice as often as the last 2.)

■Railbelt Community Facility Needs (73 percent responding):

1. Trails.*
2. Ice rinks.
3. Sports parks*; Community parks; Facility maintenance.
4. Play areas*; Land acquisition.
5. Campgrounds/upgrade campground*; Dump stations/restrooms; Access/rights of way; Winter recreation facility.

(* includes the Municipality of Anchorage responses. The Municipality is the state's largest community recreation provider.)

The ratios for these 5 categories by priority are 4.5(trails): 3:2:1.5:1 (trails were identified 4.5 times more than were campgrounds/restrooms/access/winter rec).

■Rural Community Facility Needs (26% responding):

1. Community parks (picnic/play areas).
2. Recreational courts/fields.
3. Ice rinks.
4. Trails; Indoor pools; Indoor facilities.
5. Campgrounds/improvements; Expand existing facilities; Acquire land.
6. Ski hill.

The top 2 categories were identified 7 times more than categories 4, 5 & 6. Ice rinks were identified two times more than were campgrounds, and only 1/3 as often as community parks.

Community outdoor recreation providers also identified facility needs priorities for their region (ranked from 1-4), shown in Figure 4.8. ("NI" indicates the facility type was not identified by providers within that region.)

Figure 4.8 - Facility Needs, Ranking By Region

FACILITY	REGION		
	Southeast	Railbelt	Rural
Trails	1	1	2
Field Sports	2	3	2
Playgrounds/Tot Lots	2	2	1
Picnic Areas	2	2	1
Boat Launches	2	2	2
RV Dump Stations/Restrooms	3	4	NI
Winter Facilities	2	3	3
Campgrounds	2	2	NI
Swimming Areas	2	NI	4
Outdoor Ice Skating (Hockey)	2	2	4
Community Parks	2	2	1
Archery/Target Shooting	3	4	NI
Outside Courts	NI	3	2
Golf	NI	NI	NI
Ski Areas	NI	4	4
Visitor Centers	NI	NI	NI

Note: Some facilities were identified for communities and their corresponding regions; the priorities did not differ significantly between those communities and their region. Other facilities were identified as priorities for one or the other.

BARRIERS TO MEETING COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS

Communities were asked to identify the most significant barriers to outdoor recreation in their communities. Common to all and foremost is the chronic lack of funding for outdoor recreation facility development and maintenance, supervised programs, and the shortage of land suitable or available for development. Communities in all regions also report climate or seasonal conditions as a barrier.

Railbelt communities identified community politics, lack of disabled access to trails, lack of connecting trails, and lack of local groups pursuing recreational development as significant barriers.

Southeast communities also cited the following barriers: maintenance, connecting trails, ranger/recreational authority, equipment and construction equipment, winter use of existing facilities, and a lack of enthusiasm to develop recreation programs/facilities.

Rural communities also reported the absence of outdoor recreation sites or equipment as a barrier. Access, lack of value placed on recreation, and no volunteer help also were identified.

CHAPTER 5

STATEWIDE ISSUES, GOALS, AND RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

"It is circumstances and proper timing that give action its character..."
-Agesilaus

The chief goal of outdoor recreation providers in Alaska is to provide a range of opportunities for Alaskans, as well as for other visitors, and for responsible use of Alaska's recreation resources while protecting natural values. To successfully meet this goal requires knowledge of the resource, user needs, and participation trends. Public and financial support are also crucial to success. When these are absent, the quality of the recreation experience or the opportunity can be jeopardized. Alaska State Parks staff, the interagency advisors, recreation user groups, and others reviewed the most important issues affecting outdoor recreation in Alaska over the next five years. Although each is an important issue in its own right, there are many points of intersection and overlap among them. Issues are not listed in order of importance. Recommended strategies to meet the goals are identified. A principal objective of this SCORP is to provide a framework of strategies to improve outdoor recreation in Alaska.

ISSUE 1. LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING

Goal: Secure a reliable source of funding for outdoor recreation in Alaska. Develop programs that allow important projects to be completed and maintained. Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with other agencies, the private sector, and user groups.

DISCUSSION

Outdoor recreation in Alaska has traditionally been supported with a variety of funding sources, primarily appropriations from the state general fund, federal appropriations, Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, and property taxes and revenue sharing for local governments. These funding sources have become severely stressed.

With the decline in North Slope oil production and the consequent down-scaling of state government, state funding for parks and outdoor recreation operation, programs, and facilities continues to be cut back. Since 1992, Alaska State Parks has experienced a 20.6 percent decline in its General Fund portion of the operating budget. Program receipts (user fees) help reduce this percentage, but amounts fluctuate yearly. Even with program receipts, the operating budget overall is down 1 percent from 1992. When corrected for inflation, the total state parks operating budget declined 18 percent from 1992 to 1997. The result has been staff cutbacks, shortened park hours, curtailed seasons of operation, and deferred facility maintenance.

Deferred maintenance is a major concern for all park land managers. For Alaskans and visitors alike, Alaska's state parks are the primary roadside gateways to outdoor recreation, and for many local communities, park visitors are the engine of the local economy. Park visitors expect that park facilities will match Alaska's grand beauty. Facilities must be maintained. For the state parks, a decade's worth of declining maintenance funding has so deteriorated the system that the age-old

Alaskan tradition of making repairs with little more than duct tape and baling wire no longer works. As of February 1998, the state parks facility deferred maintenance inventory was \$35 million.

Alaskans are supportive of fixing the state park system. The statewide survey of 600 Alaskans found that 65 percent would support a statewide bond issue for parks and outdoor recreation programs; 77 percent want money invested in maintaining existing park facilities. For Alaskans' continued enjoyment of new road accessible outdoor recreation and for the economic benefits that visitors bring to local communities, we can no longer ignore the deteriorating condition of our state parks.

The 1965 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) matching grant program has been a vitally important mechanism for assisting the state park system and local recreation programs. Alaska has received about \$28 million in LWCF grants with state-side matching funds resulting in the acquisition of more than 20,700 acres of park land and over 368 facility development projects for over 65 communities and agencies.

The state-side of LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program which provides funding for planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation areas. This program has been an effective and efficient alternative to federal acquisition and development, and a critical tool for stimulating local and state efforts to provide for recreation needs and preserve and protect natural areas.

Historically, Congress appropriated about \$300 million nationally for the LWCF each year. As directed by the LWCF Act of 1965, at least 40 percent was reserved to federal agencies for land acquisition purposes, commonly referred to as the "federal side" of the LWCF program. The remainder was available for apportionment to states and communities as matching grants for acquisition, development, and improvement of outdoor recreation areas, commonly referred to as the "state-side" of the LWCF program. The state-side share declined from 60 percent in 1980, to 7 percent in 1990, with a corresponding increase in the federal share.

The state-side share apportionment has not been funded since 1995, meaning that the LWCF program is no longer a significant funding source for local and state recreation. In 1995, the Alaska state-side match was \$219,000. Although funding appears unlikely for 1999, there is some possibility Congress may restore it in the 2000 budget.

Without a reliable source of supplemental funding, state and local park and recreation budgets cannot adequately respond to population increases and changing recreation needs. To meet current needs, balance between the federal and state-side share of the LWCF needs to be restored, and greater flexibility in the use of funds allowed. If this cannot be accomplished, alternative funding sources must be developed. While there are programs and funding to build new facilities, there are few ways to fund maintenance of existing facilities.

Funding through the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) program focuses federal and state funding resources through a coordinated program.

In spite of the decline in oil revenues, Alaska's population and tourism industry are growing. Although surveys show that Alaskans are willing to pay reasonable user fees to help pay for parks and outdoor recreation, these fees cannot make Alaska's parks and outdoor recreation facilities self-

supporting. While other states might fill the budget gap with income tax revenues, reinstatement of a state income tax in Alaska may not be likely in the near future. Alaska's state and local outdoor recreation managers must be more innovative than their counterparts in other states, reducing costs and increasing revenues with the limited means available, while continuing to provide the high quality experiences Alaskans expect.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. SUPPORT ONGOING EFFORTS FOR REFORM OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

Once LWCF funding is reinstated, reform will be necessary to develop a strong public constituency so that Congress can never again zero fund the state-side LWCF program without widespread public outcry. This will ensure that a viable financial assistance program is available to meet the changing outdoor recreation needs of Alaska's recreating public, as well as those in the rest of the United States.

To carry forward the original intent of the LWCF Act, it is necessary for states to receive a far higher share of the annual apportionment and have greater flexibility in their use of funding. This will require changes in the Act. Changing the way Congress appropriates LWCF funds is a national issue. However, reforming the LWCF to meet that intent requires coordinated effort at local and state levels.

Alaska's State Liaison Officer (the Alaska State Parks director) for the LWCF program will continue to work with Alaskan citizens, other outdoor recreation providers, the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Board, Alaska's Congressional delegation, and other states' liaison officers to build a statewide and national constituency supporting ongoing reform of the LWCF program and apportionment formula.

B. CONTINUE INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

1. Seek Public and Government Funding:

Alaskans' appreciation of outdoor recreation is well documented. Public agencies should continue to request adequate funding for recreation budgets from Congress and state and local government.

2. Support Professional Organizations:

Outdoor recreation providers at all levels should join and support the work of the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association, Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association, Alaska Visitors Association, and other potential partnering groups. They should participate in statewide, regional, and local workshops, and conferences, and initiate or participate in training opportunities, strategic planning sessions, and partnerships that improve the delivery and efficiency of outdoor recreation services in Alaska.

3. Expand Use of Partnerships:

Although not the solution to every budget shortfall, partnerships are an effective tool for minimizing duplication of services and expenditures, and making limited dollars go farther. Local, state, and federal outdoor recreation providers should strengthen current partnerships, initiate partnerships identified in the 1991-1992 SCORP Action Plan (Doing More With Less: Outdoor Recreation Partnerships for the 1990s) or develop new ones to fit local conditions. (The plan contains over 100 site specific partnerships to address the need for cooperative planning, consolidation of services, rehabilitation or upgrade of existing facilities, construction of new facilities in areas of high use, and tourism facilities.)

For example, the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) program goals are to improve trails and recreational access for Alaskans, coordination of state agencies to cooperate with federal agencies to develop new and better opportunities for trails and recreational access on public land, and help Alaska build and maintain its role as a world-class visitor destination. The TRAAK Citizens Advisory Board facilitates review, evaluation, and prioritization of eligible outdoor recreation projects for financing under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Recreational Trails Program (Symms). In addition to many advisory roles on recreational access needs, the board can also sponsor community round tables on TRAAK projects. TRAAK facilitates bringing state and federal partners together. It is a catalyst for focus on specific opportunities.

Another example is a cooperative support effort for wildlife viewing recreation. Recognizing the increasing public interest in wildlife viewing and education programs, as well as the limitations of current funding, a partnership among 23 state and federal agencies, conservation groups, and the tourism industry began in 1992. The partnership, the Alaska Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee, has served as a vehicle for development of cooperative projects and networking among groups with related interests. The committee, under the leadership of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has developed the Alaska Wildlife Viewing Guide (published in 1966 as part of a national series by Falcon Press), and the "Wildlife Viewing in Alaska" brochure. For each guide book sold, one dollar is contributed by the publisher to the Alaska Watchable Wildlife Trust, administered by the Alaska Conservation Foundation. These funds are designated to support wildlife conservation viewing and education projects. The committee is also coordinating placement of binocular logo signs at road-accessible sites listed in the guide. Developing a computerized database of wildlife viewing site resources, services, and facilities has been a priority, under Alaska Department of Fish and Game leadership. The Alaska Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee also supports the Teaming with Wildlife initiative (described later in this chapter) as a long-term solution to funding expanded wildlife conservation, recreation, and education programs.

The Alaska Land Managers Forum provides federal, state, and Native land managers a way to regularly meet, exchange information, and develop management approaches to land and resource issues facing Alaska. It conducts studies and advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, other federal agencies, the State of Alaska, local governments, tribal governments, and Native corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act with respect to ongoing, planned, and proposed land and resources uses in Alaska. These include transportation planning, land use designation, fish and wildlife management, preservation of cultural and historical resources, and other matters submitted for advice and consultation by the members which appear to require regional or statewide coordination.

C. PRIVATIZE SELECTED SERVICES, FACILITY OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE

1. Expand Use of Contracts:

Not all budget cuts can be mitigated by cooperative efforts. Some services now performed by agencies could be assumed equally well by the private sector at a savings to public agencies; however, many services are for the short Alaska summer season, which may not provide an adequate economic return for the private sector. Agencies should evaluate the facilities and services they provide to identify those that they are uniquely qualified to supply and those that could better be provided under a concession contract or negotiated lease with private and non-profit entities. Providers should also consider year-round service possibilities.

Competent concession operators can effectively provide high quality recreation experiences and promote public safety. In some cases, they can do this more efficiently and at less expense than public agencies, while saving agencies money and providing adequate financial return to agency coffers. Facilities and services most appropriate for concessions are those that do not pay for themselves under a user fee or other revenue generating system (e.g., some campgrounds, visitor centers, public use cabin reservation bookings, firewood sales, and selected facility maintenance), but have potential to do so under the more discretionary wage and benefit standards of the private sector.

Negotiated leases are appropriate for larger-scale tourism related facilities, such as lodges or resorts that require investment of public funds in development of the infrastructure, and the long-term financial commitment of an investor/operator.

2. Develop Interagency Commercial Use Policy:

To encourage businesses that provide important services not available from the managing agencies, such as guiding, agencies should cooperatively develop a comprehensive commercial use permit policy. The policy should set standards for professionalism, present consistent permit requirements, and consolidate fees for businesses that operate in more than one jurisdiction. The Alaska Land Managers Forum has begun work to address commercial use policy issues.

D. STRENGTHEN ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

1. Maintain and Promote Volunteer Programs:

Alaska's outdoor recreation providers should continue to maintain and promote volunteer opportunities and coordinate recruitment and placement procedures. Volunteers in Alaska's parks and conservation units come from throughout the United States to assist in management studies, campground management, trail building and maintenance, and to perform a variety of other unfunded tasks.

In 1996, over 700 Alaska State Park volunteers donated over 101,300 hours of labor at a dollar value of more than \$530,000. For the past few years, the supply of well qualified applicants has matched the demand for volunteer positions.

2. Organize User Groups:

The "friends of recreation and parks" concept has gained support among business, civic, and user groups. These groups are not only valuable for the volunteer time they contribute in parks, they are also conscientious fund raisers and lobbyists. For example, the Friends of Kodiak State Parks promote enhancement, preservation, and protection of the natural, historical, and recreational resources within the units of the Kodiak State Parks system, assist in implementing park improvements, enhance conservation and safety awareness, and further educational and interpretive opportunities compatible with the nature of the parks. Any person interested in supporting the mission can apply for membership. Agencies should cooperatively promote and support these advocacy groups to increase their visibility, membership, and effectiveness.

3. Support Teaming with Wildlife (or Related) Initiative:

Booming public interest in watching wildlife and educational programs has greatly expanded the need for additional public services and facilities. Teaming with Wildlife is a national initiative to obtain more state funding for expanding wildlife-related conservation, education, and recreation programs. Draft legislation, endorsed by more than 2,500 businesses and organizations (including over 400 from Alaska), proposed to expand the number of items currently taxed to support state fish and game and park programs. This could bring \$5 to \$17 million dollars more a year to Alaska for trails, viewing facilities, interpretive services and signs, outdoor educational programs, and natural area conservation. Alternative funding for these types of programs are being explored in Congress.

4. Continue to Promote and Support the Alaska State Parks Foundation:

Alaska State Parks should continue to promote the Alaska State Parks Foundation to raise funds for major projects and purchase programs and equipment for the state park system.

E. DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

1. Develop a Matching Grant Program:

Alaska State Parks should continue to lead efforts to establish a matching grant program (similar to the Land and Water Conservation Fund). The program should provide technical and financial assistance for development of outdoor recreation facilities and programs. To fund such a program, Alaska State Parks should also continue research on establishing an account for capital development and maintenance of facilities.

2. Develop a Trails Foundation:

Groups could contribute money to the foundation with invested profits dedicated to trails projects.

ISSUE 2. SHORTAGE OF TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Goal: Support and promote balanced use and development of Alaska's public lands for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism.

DISCUSSION

Alaska's visitors are not only out-of-state visitors. Alaskans traveling out of their communities, visiting other parts of the state, and hosting their visiting family/relatives or friends (who account for 11 percent of out-of-state visitors), are also visitors. The 1997 statewide resident telephone survey showed that large percentages of Alaskans recreated/used facilities more than an hour away from their community in the past year: sportfishing, 33.6 percent; driving for pleasure/sightseeing, 32.5 percent; campground tent camping, 26.3 percent; backpacking, 23.2 percent; RV camping and sport hunting, each 22.2 percent; clamming, 21.5 percent; powerboating, 19.1 percent; and snowmobiling, 14.9 percent. There is great interest in and support for developing visitor opportunities for Alaska residents' recreation needs.

Wildland recreation and in-state tourism represent not only a lifestyle activity, but a significant economic force in Alaska. In 1997, visitors coming to the state spent over \$952 million on food, travel, lodging, and outdoor recreation equipment and services in Alaska. The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation says that Alaska resident snowmobilers spend about \$150 million annually on their sport, and that Alaska resident skiers (both alpine and cross-country) spend about \$60 million annually on theirs. For some of Alaska's small communities, tourism is one of the few opportunities for a cash economy.

- Tourism is statewide. It is a leading industry in southcentral, southeast and interior Alaska, and is growing in the rural regions.
- Small business accounts for 90% of the state visitor industry.
- Tourism creates over 18,900 full-time, year-round jobs in Alaska.
- The visitor industry ranks second in terms of private sector employment.
- With a 78 percent Alaska hire rate, the visitor industry employs the highest percentage of Alaska residents, compared to all private sector industries.
- Travel and tourism impact another 9,500 fulltime jobs in other sectors of the Alaskan economy.
- Visitor and tourism businesses generate \$2.6 billion per year in revenues. (This does not include wages or travel to/from Alaska.)

The past two decades have seen rapid growth in the number of visitors to Alaska. Eight out of 10 visitors come to Alaska during the peak travel months of May through September. An estimated 1.3 million visitors travel to Alaska every year. The number of total visitors to Alaska since summer 1989 has increased by more than 350,000, a total increase of nearly 60 percent and an average annual growth rate of 8 percent. The number of visitors to the state has increased steadily each summer season. Cruise ship visitor volumes experienced the most dramatic rate of growth between 1989 and 1995, increasing 86 percent, with an average annual growth rate of nearly 11 percent. The largest portion of visitors to Alaska in 1996 were from the United States (83 percent) with the majority coming from the western states. Canada accounted for approximately 10 percent of summer visitors while overseas visitors were about 6 percent. In the early years of Alaska non-resident tourism,

independent travelers were rare. Nearly all visitors traveled as part of a packaged tour. The independent market in 1997 was 55 percent, or 630,000 visitors.

The average visitor to Alaska in 1997 was 50 years old. One-half of all visitors were over the age of 55. More than one-quarter (27 percent) have attended or completed graduate school. One-fourth are college graduates. Another 44 percent have graduated from high school and had some college education. Alaska visitors are moderately well-to-do, with average household incomes just over \$60,000. Almost three out of every ten visitors will earn more than \$75,000 annually. Over one-half of the state's visitors are employed at the time of their visit, and more than one-third are retired. Slightly more males than females visit Alaska.

Typically, independent travelers stay in Alaska longer, travel more widely around the state, and spend more money than other visitors. In general, they are sophisticated tourists looking for "world class" scenery, wildlife encounters, adventure, and Native Alaskan culture. In response to this trend, the number of small Alaskan businesses offering customized tours and nature-based travel has grown.

Another trend causing a shift in visitor demand, by both Alaskans and visitors to Alaska, is the aging baby boom generation. Demand for physically demanding activities such as backpacking is increasing, as is demand for road oriented opportunities, such as those offered by resort facilities.

Alaska benefits from a wide array of recreational tourism opportunities. Alaska's premier wildland recreation and tourism destinations are publicly owned, with local, state and federal recreation agencies providing many of the basic needs of Alaska's visitors. However, Alaska's public lands have not realized their potential for providing year round outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities. While millions of dollars in advertising are spent every year to attract Alaskans and visitors, public land and recreation managing agencies have experienced serious financial hardships. Providing facilities that meet the changing demands of recreationists and visitors can require expensive infrastructure. The private sector is often better able to provide capital and labor intensive services needed to provide these facilities than are public agencies. Whether under long-term negotiated lease, concession contract, or other type of arrangement, well-planned and designed facilities, built on public lands and operated by the private sector, can meet a growing need and provide positive economic return to the public. In addition, there is growing interest and support for providing recreational facilities and services on private land.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. EXPAND COOPERATIVE PLANNING EFFORTS

Coordinating committees, such as the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAACK) Board and the Alaska Land Managers Forum, should continue to emphasize interagency cooperation to better coordinate recreation and tourism development. This will enable better quality control and more precise targeting of tourism developments and visitor services related to outdoor recreation.

As in-state and out-of-state demand increases, special emphasis should be on improved and increased access to visitor destinations and sites necessary to disperse use. Emphasis should include balancing the needs of all users. Emphasis should also be on enhancements to Alaska's highway and marine highway systems using TEA 21 funding (formerly ISTEA) (described later under Transportation Enhancements).

B. MAINTAIN AND EXPAND PRIVATE-PUBLIC NATURE-BASED TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS

Carefully directed and managed tourism can benefit conservation of wildland resources and the Alaska economy. Visitors support recreational enhancement efforts of public agencies through user fees, licenses, and permits. Agencies should continue cooperative efforts to promote and enhance Alaska's nature-based tourism opportunities through the Alaska Visitors Association, the interagency Alaska Watchable Wildlife program, the Alaska Natural History Association, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, and other partnerships.

There are now signs for wildlife viewing areas. The Alaska Wildlife Viewing Guide (mentioned earlier) includes roadside areas that are being signed with the national binocular logo symbol by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and other agencies. These signs will help direct people interested in viewing fish and wildlife to designated state and federal areas.

C. PROMOTE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS WHERE APPROPRIATE

Where appropriate, outdoor recreation agencies should foster an investment climate that encourages and supports public-private partnerships to help meet outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism facility needs. Such development requires consideration of land use plans, applicable laws and ordinances, and current recreational and existing use patterns, and working with affected publics. (See recommendations on privatizing selected services, facility operation, and maintenance.)

D. DEVELOP YEAR-ROUND TOURISM DESTINATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Agencies should work with in-state recreation user groups and affected publics, local governments, major recreation organizations, and the tourism industry when planning, designing, building, and promoting facilities with year-round capabilities or applications, and should also keep year round and existing use in mind when designing summer facilities. Alaska residents' recreation needs should be part of the development process. (See the section on private sector development on public lands, above.)

E. INCREASE CAPITAL SPENDING TO REHABILITATE AND EXPAND FACILITIES

Through contact with user groups and advisory boards, recreation managers should build constituent support for capital budgets to fund the rehabilitation and expansion of existing public facilities. New (revenue generating) facilities at locations of high demand should also be supported. Maintenance should be part of that support for existing and new facilities.

F. EXPAND PUBLIC USE CABIN SYSTEM

Recreation providers should develop partnerships with the private and public sectors for the design, construction, marketing, operation, and maintenance of an expanded public use cabin system. Consider a “hut to hut” system, modeled after the successful European and New Zealand programs.

G. PROMOTE THE ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTERS (APLICS)

These inter-agency centers allow visitors to stop by or write to just one place for all the information necessary to plan an Alaskan adventure on public lands. Agencies serviced by the APLICs are: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Division of Tourism, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Bureau of Land Management.

ISSUE 3. IMPROVED ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES

Goal: Provide more convenient, legal, and barrier-free access to outdoor recreation opportunities on Alaska's public lands and waters.

DISCUSSION

As the state's population increases and as the visitor recreation needs expand, the demand for more trails, boat ramps, and barrier-free access (where appropriate) to recreation facilities increases. While many people desire to recreate in an uncrowded natural setting, the shortage of access to recreation resources has led to overuse and resource damage in high-demand areas, and user conflicts. There is an emerging incompatibility of uses and values, especially on multi-use trails. There is a desire for quiet places on public lands, as well as a desire for motorized places.

Trail-related activities such as hiking, snowmobiling, bicycling, horseback riding, and ORV riding are not only popular outdoor recreation activities in their own right, but they also provide access to other activities. Trail usage is high throughout the state and developing more trail opportunities is a high priority for many Alaskans. Roads, railroads, and ferries are used year round as primary access for hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, and virtually all forms of recreation connected to them, and to provide access to other opportunities. In addition, hundreds of miles of temporary roads and logging roads offer access to recreation.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21) – which supersedes The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) provides for development of much-needed community transportation improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, preservation of historic transportation structures, and scenic beautification. These “Transportation Enhancements” are eligible for federal funding as long as they relate to surface transportation and are included in the following 12 qualifying activities:

1. provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles,
2. provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists,
3. acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites,
4. scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities),
5. landscaping and other scenic beautification,
6. historic preservation,
7. rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals),
8. preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails),
9. control and removal of outdoor advertising,
10. archaeological planning and research,
11. environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity, and
12. establishment of transportation museums.

While Transportation Enhancements are linked to transportation, they include recreation facilities and infrastructure, and usually improve access to recreation opportunities. Most improvements under the first category (facilities for pedestrians and bicycles) are trails. In fact, over half of the Transportation Enhancements funding programmed nation-wide since ISTEA was passed by Congress in 1991 has been invested in bicycle and pedestrian trails. In addition to Transportation Enhancements, which are projects “above and beyond” basic transportation infrastructure needs, it is policy in the State of Alaska to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in the design of state-owned roads.

Additionally, a state may spend highway funds for wildlife viewing, signing and facilities, construction of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, and for construction of bicycle transportation facilities on or adjacent to roads on the National Highway System or the state highway system.

Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK)

In 1995, Alaska Governor Tony Knowles initiated the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) program. TRAAK has three main goals:

- to build trails that safely link neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas together,
- to improve access to recreation for Alaskans, and
- to build and maintain Alaska’s role as a world-class visitor destination.

TRAAK is an important cooperative program that brings together four state agencies as partners: the departments of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Natural Resources, Fish and Game, and Commerce and Economic Development. Transportation Enhancements are the largest component of the TRAAK program but through TRAAK, the state implements two other

components of TEA21 and ISTEA, the Scenic Byways Program and the Recreational Trails Program (formally Symms).

The Citizens Advisory Board appointed by the Governor advises the State of Alaska on the implementation of the TRAAK program and ensures that public concerns are addressed. The board includes members of the public as well as non-voting members from the departments of Transportation & Public Facilities and Natural Resources. The board can review and recommend priorities for all TRAAK funding programs, and has specific authority to approve grant awards under the Recreational Trails Program. Another board responsibility is reviewing Land and Water Conservation Fund project applications and assisting with project prioritization as prescribed by the LWCF open project selection process (see Chapter 6).

Figure 5.1 - Alaska's TRAAK Initiative



Recreational Trails Program (formerly the Symms Grant Program)

The Recreational Trails Program is a component of TEA21 (formerly ISTEA), administered on the federal side by the Federal Highway Administration, and on the state side by Alaska State Parks (Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation). Under this grant program, approximately \$400,000 comes to Alaska each year for building and improving hiking, skiing, snowmobile, and off-road-vehicle trails in Alaska. This is a competitive grant program; grants are awarded to organizations and agencies. The funds are based on a formula that estimates the percentage of federal tax on fuel used by off-road recreational vehicles.

Scenic Byways

The Alaska Scenic Byways Program was established by DOT&PF in 1993, to designate as scenic those segments of the highway system that have outstanding scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, natural, or archaeological qualities. The program does not restrict land use along the corridor. However, it gives DOT&PF authority to develop standards for signs and informational displays along designated Scenic Byway routes. The Federal Highway Administration administers the National Scenic Byways Program. Alaska's Scenic Byways Program relies in large part on the annual grants under this program. "All American Road" is a national designation given to the nation's most scenic routes, based on an application initiated by the state. The Seward Highway has this designation. The Scenic Byways program is coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Watchable Wildlife and Transportation Enhancement projects within designated scenic road corridors.

Corridor Assessments

DOT&PF has developed TRAAK corridor assessments for the 10 major National Highway System routes in Alaska (Dalton, Parks, Richardson, Seward, Sterling, Alaska, Glenn, Haines, Klondike, and Tok Cut-off highways). These assessments focus on the highway corridors and provide an inventory of existing improvements and prospective improvement projects that qualify for TRAAK funding. The assessments may be expanded to include opportunities along but outside the corridors. These reports will be used as a long-range planning tool for identifying TRAAK projects.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program

This program ensures a dedicated funding source for transportation planning and projects that demonstrate potential for improving air quality and mitigating traffic congestion in areas that do not meet goals and requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Examples of eligible activities are pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit system capital expansion and improvements, and traffic flow improvements.

Federal Lands Highway Program

The Federal Lands Highway Program covers highway programs in cooperation with federal land managing agencies, such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Forest Service. Funding is provided for the three existing categories of Federal Lands highways: Indian

Reservation Roads, Park Roads and Parkways, and Public Lands Highways (discretionary and Forest Highways), and for a new category called Refuge Roads (federally owned public roads providing access to or within the National Wildlife Refuge System). Program funds can be used for transit facilities within public lands, national parks, and Indian reservations and can also be used as the state/local match for most types of federal-aid highway funded projects. The program also provides transportation engineering services for planning, design, construction, and rehabilitation of highways and bridges providing access to federally owned lands, and planning for tourism and recreational travel, interpretive signage, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, and construction of roadside rest areas. Projects are not selected or funded as part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, but have their own planning process (selected projects are listed in the STIP).

In addition, many local transportation improvement plans include access-related projects that TEA21 (formerly ISTEA) could fund. Examples of such plans, developed in the past six years, include the Municipality of Anchorage's Anchorage Metropolitan Area Mass Transportation Study (AMATS), which includes a transportation improvement program; Homer bicycle trails plan; Kenai Peninsula Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough Transportation plans (involving staking hundreds of miles of trails); the Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Trails plan was written and adopted in the mid-1980s.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Making parks and outdoor recreation facilities accessible to residents and visitors also means accommodating the needs of special populations. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides guidance and a timetable for public agencies to make access to the disabled population a reality. The Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, and provides for equal access to public services and transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunication services. According to the Act, an individual with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities, a record of such impairment, or who is regarded as having such an impairment. As outlined in the Act, major life activities include caring for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, and working.

The Act prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation, including parks and other places of exercise or recreation. It specified an effective date of January 26, 1992, for alterations to public accommodations, and January 26, 1993, for new construction. Physical barriers in existing public accommodations (including parks) must be removed if readily achievable (i.e., easily accomplished and without much expense). If not, alternative methods of providing services must be offered, if those methods are readily achievable. Meeting the spirit and the requirements of this Act to make parks and outdoor recreation facilities accessible is a challenge and a priority for Alaska's outdoor recreation managers.

IDENTIFICATION OF LEGAL TRAILS AND LEGAL ACCESS

Nationwide, trails of all kinds are experiencing significant increases in use and public support. Trail development is also increasing to meet growing demands for year-round trail based recreation and to promote economic development.

Even as new trails are developed, many existing trails are lost as property owners put their land to other uses. Trails must be legally identified, established, and dedicated for long term use to avoid this loss of recreational opportunity.

Property owners are growing more reluctant to grant access to trails across their property for fear of being held liable for accidents and injury. Alaska is one of the states that has not taken adequate measures to protect property owners from liability associated with trail use across their land. Consequently, much new trail access is either being denied and existing access is being lost. Legislation should be enacted to provide protection for property owners who allow the public to use trails on their property.

Preventing loss of existing trails and providing liability protection for private property owners were issues heard at almost all SCORP public meetings and in many public comments.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. IMPLEMENT TEA21 (formerly ISTEA) PROVISIONS

1. Promote the TRAAK Program:

Continue the work of the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK) Program.

2. Research Compliance Requirements:

Alaska State Parks should continue to research the need for legislation to appropriate a portion of the state's non-highway recreation fuel consumption to the trails program, and develop legislation, if necessary.

3. Improve Interagency Coordination:

Improved communication and coordinated planning among local, state, and federal transportation and recreation agencies and trail users is necessary to develop a list of priority projects eligible for funds under the TEA21 enhancement program.

4. Prepare Alaska Trails Plan:

Planners with the Department of Natural Resources, with assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and TRAAK board, and funded in part through an LWCF planning grant administered by the National Park Service, are working on an Alaska Trails

Plan. The plan will respond to statewide trail issues identified in a December 1997 trail user statewide survey.

B. IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER-BASED RECREATION

Outdoor recreation providers should develop a priority list for the development or improvement of access to water-based recreation resources throughout the state. State, federal, and LWCF funding should be sought to meet high priority access and resource protection needs. These should be coordinated with the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson programs, which provide grants for sport fishing and sport hunting access facilities.

C. DEVELOP INVENTORY OF BARRIER-FREE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Agencies should cooperate in the inventory of recreation facilities and their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards. This inventory can be used in a variety of ways, including the indication of accessible facilities in brochures and other printed materials for public use, in the formulation of capital budgets for remedial work, and as a measure of any facility deficiencies for serving disabled populations. A specialized brochure devoted to accessible facilities is a good candidate for a partnership among agencies and user groups.

D. CONTINUE COOPERATIVE PLANNING EFFORTS WITH "BARRIER-FREE" ADVOCACY GROUPS

Outdoor recreation providers should strengthen partnerships between outdoor recreation providers and barrier-free advocacy groups by exchanging technical information about facility needs. One agency could serve as a clearinghouse for state-of-the-art information and design standards for barrier-free access. Providers should assist in identifying physical and attitudinal barriers that inhibit participation by special populations in outdoor recreation activities. Higher priority for funding could be given to projects with multiple barrier-free application, such as wheelchairs, walking aids, and elderly access, where appropriate.

E. CONSIDER INCOMPATIBILITY AMONG USERS AND USER VALUES

In providing a range of opportunities, recreation providers, user groups, and interested publics should consider all viewpoints in recreation planning (see public workshop and draft plan comments in Appendix D, as example). Many users believe that natural quiet is an essential resource and should receive specific treatment in planning documents as do other valuable resources. Quiet, like other resources, should be considered for its values and benefits; the wide variety of possible methods to protect and restore natural quiet to public lands should be considered. Many users differ in views on motorized/nonmotorized compatibility. Many snowmobilers consider snowmobile use different from other off road vehicle use (differences in summer/winter uses). Some people do not see incompatibility as an issue (things can be made compatible). Some think guided groups have less resource impact than cumulative individual use; others think the opposite. Some think multi-use trails cause conflicts; others do not. These examples emphasize the need to find ways to resolve differences. Public education, dialogue/communication, and involvement are examples of ways to

resolve differing views. In the case of trails, signage is often mentioned as a way to resolve conflicts.

F. DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING AND LEGALLY DEDICATING EXISTING TRAILS

Continue to develop focused strategies for identifying, establishing, and dedicating legal trails for long term use.

G. DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGAL ACCESS ON TRAILS ACROSS PRIVATE LAND

Continue to support and pursue legislation to provide liability protection for private property owners to allow the public to use trails dedicated on private land. Continue to identify and develop additional legal tools for providing trail access on private property and property owner liability protection.

ISSUE 4. OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET RECREATION NEEDS IN COMMUNITIES

Goal: Support efforts to assist communities in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of their citizens.

DISCUSSION

While there is a need for more outdoor recreation facilities in many communities throughout the state, the shortage appears to be most critical in rural areas.

The need in many Alaska communities for facilities such as play fields, court game facilities, trails, skating rinks, pools, and organized recreation programs is great. In many communities, these facilities are either lacking or poorly maintained. While the constraints to providing facilities are primarily financial, harsh environment also presents problems for constructing and maintaining outdoor facilities. Winters are long and cold. In some areas severe wind chill conditions can be life threatening. Average summer surface water temperatures either prohibit swimming outright or restrict it to very limited areas and periods. Permafrost is a limiting factor to facility siting and other land uses. Incidence of mass wasting of slopes (including snow avalanches), shoreline erosion, and human-bear or other potentially dangerous wildlife encounters are common to all regions. Other uniquely Alaskan constraints or dangers include seismic and tsunami potential, and sea ice. The LWCF program includes flexibility to allow enclosed and covered recreation facilities, such as ice rinks and swimming pools, in northern climates.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. GIVE SOME COMMUNITIES A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR LWCF MATCHING GRANTS

A stated purpose of the LWCF Act is "...to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States." In consideration of the critical imbalance in facilities and funding available in many communities, Alaska's State Liaison Officer should work with the TRAAK Board and National Park Service to ensure that more projects are funded through the LWCF (provided they meet eligibility requirements), based on state open project selection process criteria (see Chapter 6), which include what facilities are currently available in a community, and if the community has already received its per capita share of Land and Water Conservation Fund money.

B. DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Alaska's outdoor recreation providers should develop a state trust (similar to the LWCF) for facility development and technical assistance on outdoor recreation projects in Alaska's communities. (See section on developing a state matching grant alternative to the LWCF program.) The State of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is an example of a program that provides funds for acquisition and development of local and state parks, water access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat areas.

C. DESIGN FACILITIES TO REFLECT ECONOMIC REALITIES AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Because funds are limited, and maintenance costs high, communities and funding programs should place an emphasis on the construction of facilities with low maintenance requirements, revenue generating capability, and environmentally sound practices (sustainability). Continued maintenance should be part of the design.

Figure 5.2 - Implementation Responsibilities

Strategy/Action	Lead Agency/ies	Participating Agencies
Support effort for ongoing reform of LWCF program	ASP, NPS	
Continue interagency communication and cooperative efforts	All	
Seek public and government funding	All	
Support professional organizations	All	
Expand use of partnerships	All	
Privatize selected services, facility operation, and maintenance	SOA	All others
Expand use of contracts	All	
Develop interagency commercial use policy	All	
Strengthen alternative funding mechanisms and programs	All	
Maintain/promote volunteer programs	All	
Organize user groups	All	
Support Teaming w/Wildlife/Related Initiatives	ADFG	All others
Promote/support State Parks Foundation	ASP	
Develop alternative funding sources	NPS, SOA	All others
Develop a matching grant program	ASP	
Develop a trails foundation	ASP	All others
Expand cooperative planning efforts	All	
Maintain/expand private-public tourism partnerships	All	
Promote private sector development on public lands	DNR	USFS, BLM
Develop year-round tourism destinations/related services on public lands	DNR	USFS, BLM
Increase capital spending to rehab/expand facilities	SOA	All others
Expand public use cabin system	ASP	USFS, BLM, USFWS
Promote Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLIC)	All	
Implement TEA21 provisions	DOT&PF	All
Promote TRAAK	ASP/DOT&PF	
Research compliance requirements	ASP	
Improve interagency coordination	All	
Prepare statewide trail plan	ASP	NPS, ADNR
Improve access to water-based recreation	ASP, ADFG	All others
Develop inventory of barrier-free outdoor recreation facilities	ASP	
Continue cooperative planning with barrier-free advocacy groups	All	
Consider incompatibility among users	All	
Develop strategies to identify/dedicate trails	All	
Develop legal access for trails on private land	ASP	All others
Give some communities a higher priority for LWCF matching grants	ASP, NPS	
Develop alternative funding sources	SOA	
Design facilities to reflect economic realities/sustainable practices	All	

Key:

ADFG Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ASP Alaska State Parks

BLM Bureau of Land Management

DCRA Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs

DNR Alaska Department of Natural Resources

DOT&PF Alaska Department of Transportation and Public facilities

LG Local Government

NPS National Park Service

SOA State of Alaska

USFS US Forest Service

USFWS US Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS US Geological Survey (APLIC only)

CHAPTER 6

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM, PRIORITIES AND FUNDING CYCLE

In this chapter, the relationship between the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program is summarized, priorities for LWCF funds identified, and the schedule for applying for a LWCF grant outlined, assuming restoration of state-side funding.

SCORP AND THE LWCF PROGRAM

To be eligible to participate in the LWCF program, each state must have a current SCORP on file with the National Park Service (the federal agency responsible for administering the LWCF). Through the SCORP planning process, agencies and the public identify capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing, and protecting outdoor recreation resources. These priority needs are then used as a guide to direct the state's allocation of its LWCF apportionment. Projects that address priority needs identified in the SCORP are eligible for matching grants. (Alaska's statewide and regional priorities are outlined later in this chapter.)

THE OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

The Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) was developed to accomplish the following goals:

1. Provide for public knowledge of and participation in the formulation and application of the project selection process utilized by the state in allocating LWCF assistance.
2. Ensure that all potential state and local applicants are aware of the availability of and process for obtaining LWCF assistance, and provide opportunities for all eligible agencies to submit project applications and have them considered on an equitable basis.
3. Provide a measurable link, through published selection criteria, to the specific outdoor recreation needs and priorities identified in SCORP policy plans and action programs.
4. Assure that the distribution of LWCF assistance is accomplished in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to minority populations, the elderly and the disabled, and ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of all applications for LWCF assistance.

Through the OPSP, project proposals are submitted to Alaska State Parks according to the schedule outlined at the end of this chapter. Proposals are evaluated, scored, and ranked based on 13 factors, one of which is compliance with needs and objectives of the SCORP. Compliance with SCORP objectives is weighted more heavily by the evaluation committee than are other criteria. The maximum number of points awarded a project through the evaluation process is 120; up to 50 points are awarded to projects addressing SCORP priorities.

Other criteria for project selection include: site suitability, environmental impact, age groups served, anticipated effect on social problems, sponsor's ability to operate and maintain project, proximity to public areas or facilities, barrier-free accessibility, and compliance with a local planning effort that has had public review. Other considerations include what facilities are currently available and if the community has already received its per capita share of LWCF money.

LOCAL RECREATION PLAN

Because the SCORP's regional priorities are generalized and may not accurately address a specific community's needs, Alaska State Parks grant administration staff developed the "local recreation plan" option. Completion of this plan will not only help sponsors better compete for LWCF grants, it will assure that grants are awarded based on community as well as regional priorities. See Appendix C for local recreation plan guidelines.

A project must be identified as a priority need in the SCORP to be eligible for funding from the LWCF program. However, a project identified as a priority need in either a local or a regional plan as well as the SCORP will be awarded additional points in the LWCF scoring process, thus providing a distinct scoring advantage for that project.

Alaska's OPSP requires project proposals to be identified in a local or regional plan. For communities without any formal plan in place, an adopted local recreation plan will meet this requirement.

The local recreation plan is not meant to replace existing comprehensive local or regional plans. However, in communities with outdated plans (over 10 years old), a local recreation plan may be submitted to advance a project not identified in the original plan, provided the local recreation plan is approved as an addendum to the original plan.

PRIORITIES FOR LWCF FUNDING

Outdoor recreation priorities are based on responses to the October 1997 statewide telephone survey, the community recreation provider surveys submitted to Alaska State Parks in winter 1998, and on SCORP public and agency comments. Only those projects that meet a priority need identified in the SCORP are eligible for LWCF funding.

STATE PRIORITIES

The following are priorities for Alaska State Parks and other state agencies that manage outdoor recreation resources (e.g., Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land).

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Rehabilitation of existing high-demand facilities	High
Construction of new facilities in high-demand areas	High
Statewide trail plan	High
Meet accessibility requirements of ADA including inventory of recreation facilities and programs	High
Land acquisition (for access to existing recreation lands and facilities)	Medium
Land acquisition (for new parks or outdoor recreation areas)	Low
Acquisition of wetlands (to protect recreation values)	Low

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The following are priorities for community recreation projects by region.

Note: "Trails" include summer and winter motorized, non-motorized trails, and multi-use trails. "Winter facilities" include covered or open outdoor hockey and ice skating rinks, sledding areas, and warming huts. Downhill ski areas are identified separately. Community parks, field sports (e.g., baseball), outside court sports (e.g., basketball, volleyball), picnic areas, and playgrounds/tot lots have been combined into one category: community parks/playgrounds.

REGION: SOUTHEAST

The regional emphasis is on providing new facilities in communities with few or no facilities, and expanding or improving existing opportunities in larger communities.

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Trails	High
Community parks/playgrounds	High
Winter facilities	High
Public use cabins	High
Campgrounds	High
Boat launches	High
Rehabilitation of existing facilities	High
Swimming pools (covered)	Medium
Target shooting facilities	Medium
Land acquisition for access	Medium
Park land acquisition	Low
Golf courses	Low
Ski areas	Low

REGION: RAILBELT

The regional emphasis is on new facilities in areas of high demand, and expanding or improving existing opportunities.

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Trails	High
Boat launches	High
Community parks/playgrounds	High
Winter facilities	High
Campgrounds	High
Rehabilitation of existing facilities	High
Public use cabins	High
Land acquisition for access	Medium
Ski areas	Low
Target shooting facilities	Low
Golf courses	Low
Park land acquisition	Low
Swimming pools (covered)	Low

REGION: RURAL

The regional emphasis is on developing basic outdoor recreation facilities and improving existing ones.

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Community park/playgrounds	High
Trails	High
Boat launches	High
Rehabilitation of existing facilities	High
Campgrounds	Medium
Winter facilities	Medium
Land acquisition for access	Medium
Public use cabins	Low
Target shooting facilities	Low
Ski areas	Low
Swimming pools (covered)	Low
Golf courses	Low
Park land acquisition	Low

THE OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS SCHEDULE

In 1991, an initiative dubbed “Operation Crosshairs” was outlined by the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO). Its objective is to inform each state’s Congressional delegation of state side LWCF priorities and pre-approved projects. The purpose was to create Congressional support for an increase in the state side share of the LWCF apportionment. To help meet this objective, the OPSP schedule has been revised. The Alaska application process usually begins in July of each year and takes one and one half years to complete. Depending on restoration of LWCF money, the process may start in a different month; the basic schedule applies, regardless of start month.

Year 1

July - Alaska State Parks solicits letters of intent from potential project sponsors.

August/September - Sponsors notify Alaska State Parks of intent to file LWCF preliminary applications.

November/December - Deadline for preliminary applications.

January - Preliminary applications evaluated, scored, and ranked by Alaska State Park staff evaluation committee.

January/February - The Governor’s Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) board meets to review applications and assist the State Liaison Officer with project prioritization. The meeting is open to the public.

March - State Liaison Officer (Director of Alaska State Parks) and TRAAK members inform Alaska’s Congressional delegation of pre-approved LWCF projects.

April/May - Alaska State Parks staff meets with sponsors of highly ranked projects to review program requirements and to inspect potential project site.

Year 2

August/September - Final application packages due to Alaska State Parks.

October/November - Completed application packages submitted to the National Park Service for pre-approval.

January - LWCF apportionment received by Alaska. Approved grant agreements signed by National Park Service.

February - State/local agreements signed between Alaska State Parks and sponsors. Project development or acquisition may begin.

CHAPTER 7

WETLANDS

WETLANDS AS A COMPONENT OF THE SCORP

The United States Congress enacted the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (PL 99645) to protect and promote conservation of our nation's important wetlands. The act amends the LWCF Act to require SCORPs to specifically address wetlands... "as an important recreation resource," and to allow states to use LWCF funds to acquire wetlands identified in the SCORP. This chapter guides the state in identifying high recreation value wetlands that should receive priority attention for acquisition or other protective efforts.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act also requires SCORPs to be consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) wetland programs and policies, and it requires the SCORP wetland component to be developed cooperatively with other agencies. This chapter was prepared through the cooperative efforts of the USFWS Alaska Regional Office, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

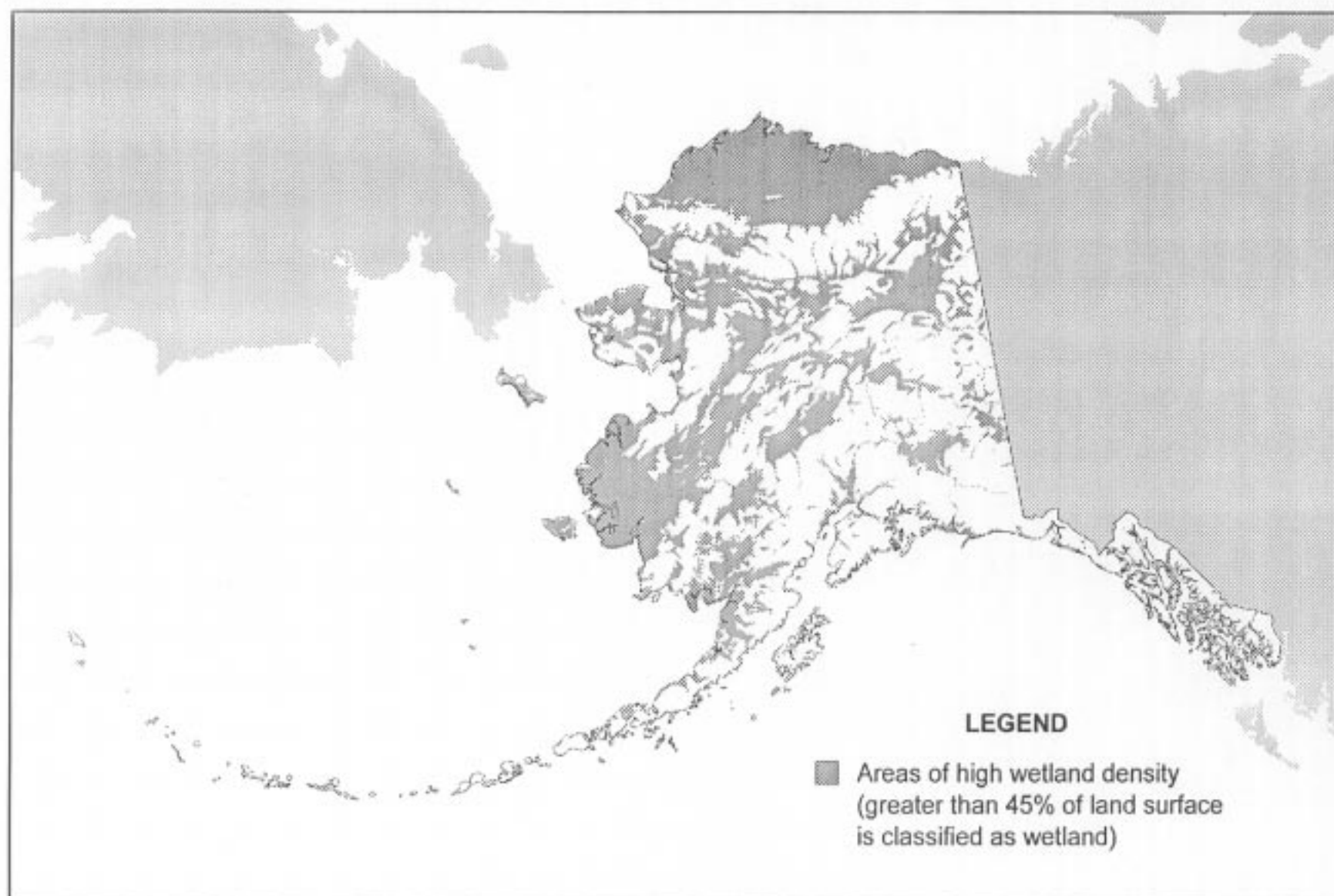
ALASKA'S WETLANDS

Alaska is in a unique situation in relation to its wetlands (Figures 7.1 and 7.2). The USFWS estimates that the state contains approximately 175 million acres of wetlands, or 63 percent of the total wetland acreage for the U. S. (Hall et al. 1994). Wetlands cover 43.3 percent of Alaska's surface area. In the lower 48 states, wetlands occupy only 5.2 percent of the surface area.

Wetland losses have been much less in Alaska compared to the lower 48 states. The USFWS estimates that over the past 200 years, 53 percent of the original wetland acreage in the conterminous U.S. has been lost. During the same time period, less than 1 percent of Alaska's wetland cover has been filled or drained (Dahl 1990).

The density of Alaska's wetlands is extremely variable across regions (see Map 7.1). For example, wetland habitats cover 83 percent of the Arctic Coastal Plain, while less than 11 percent of the Aleutian Island Chain and Kodiak Archipelago are wetlands. Wetland extent in other physiographic regions includes: 1) Cook Inlet/Susitna Lowlands - 28 percent, 2) Yukon Flats - 38 percent, and 3) Selawik/Kobuk Delta - 76 percent.

While some wetland types in Alaska are extensive in area, others are very limited. Within the 14-million-acre Arctic Coastal Plain, less than one percent of the wetlands are coastal salt marshes. These marshes are important staging and feeding areas for a significant number of



Map 7.1. Wetland distribution in Alaska (Hall 1991).

Wetlands of the U.S.

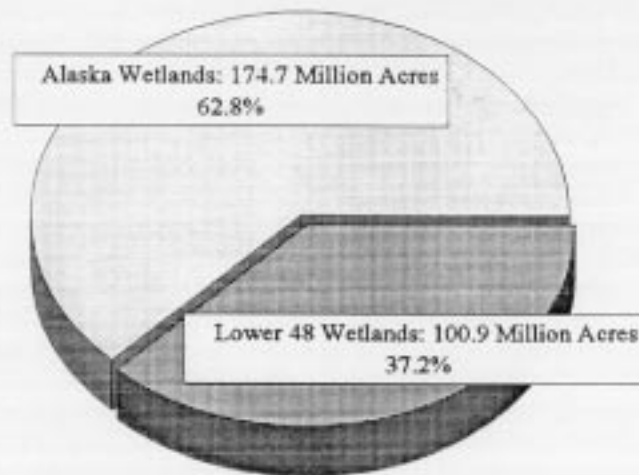


Figure 7.1

Surface Area of Alaska and Lower 48 States

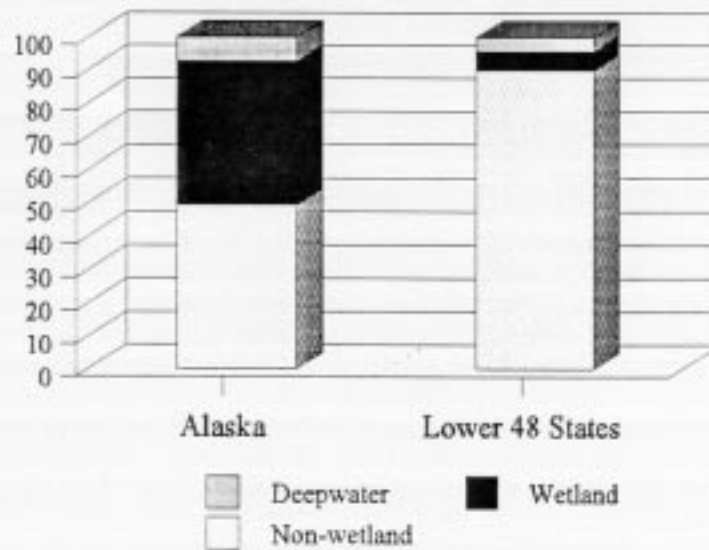


Figure 7.2

migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Similarly, very narrow zones of riparian wetlands are important to resident and anadromous fish by providing bank stabilization, nutrient input to riverine channels, maintaining base flow, and providing rearing habitat where small channels enter the streamside marshes.

Wetlands are a conspicuous feature of the landscape in most regions of the state. Treeless expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in northern and western portions. Interior Alaska contains millions of acres of black spruce muskeg and floodplain wetlands dominated by deciduous shrubs and emergents. Shrub and herbaceous bogs are common in south central and southeast Alaska. Even in mountainous areas such as the Brooks Range, wetlands have developed in drainages and on vegetated slopes. Some of the nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska.

Many wetlands in northern portions of Alaska are underlain and maintained by permafrost, or perennially frozen ground. Wetland conditions often occur because the frozen layer traps water at or near the surface. Other wetlands are maintained by heavy rainfall, glacial melt water, river flooding, beaver activity, snow melt, springs, impermeable soils, and bedrock.

WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND VALUES

Alaska's wetlands provide many benefits, including:

- food and habitat for wildlife, fish, and shellfish;
- natural products for human use and subsistence;
- surface and groundwater recharge;
- shoreline erosion and sediment control, floodwater storage; and
- opportunities for recreation and aesthetic appreciation.

Not all wetlands perform all of these functions, but most provide one or more in varying degrees.

Tundra wetlands in northern and western Alaska are prime breeding grounds for many shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, and their relatives). Waterfowl species dependent on Alaskan wetlands include more than 100 thousand swans, one million geese, and 12 million ducks. These include more than half the continental populations of tundra and trumpeter swans and all or most of the continental populations of eight species or subspecies of geese.

In recent years, Alaskan wetlands have on average supported 30 percent of the continental populations of northern pintails, 24 percent of American wigeons, 19 percent of scaup, 18 percent of canvasback, and 13 percent of green-winged teal. The importance of Alaskan wetlands to these and other species increases significantly during years when drought occurs in prairie states and provinces.

During migration, huge flocks of waterfowl and shorebirds stop at specific areas for resting and feeding. These critical wetlands provide concentrated food resources necessary to fuel the journey to nesting areas in the spring, or southern destinations in the fall. Nearly all of the

Pacific Flyway black brant feed on rich eelgrass beds at Izembek Lagoon on the Alaska Peninsula during fall migration (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1985).

Many mammals in Alaska use specific wetland types and areas. Some species, such as beaver and muskrat, spend most of their lives in wetlands. Other mammals use wetlands primarily as feeding or resting areas. Moose commonly feed on submerged vegetation in deep marshes and shallow ponds, and on willow shrubs which are common in many wetlands. The two largest herds of caribou, both in northern Alaska, gather into huge aggregations and migrate from winter upland areas to coastal wetlands in the summer. Uninterrupted wetlands in the North Slope coastal plain are used by these animals for calving and feeding. Nonvegetated wetland types such as gravel bars and coastal beaches are used to escape insect harassment. Many wetland habitats provide important feeding areas and habitats for bear, deer and migratory songbirds.

Wetlands along Alaska's coasts, rivers, and streams provide a variety of functions that support fisheries. Many fish species feed in wetlands or on food produced by wetlands. Coastal wetlands and streamside marshes are used as nursery grounds. Other wetland types adjacent to rivers are important to fish populations because they maintain and regulate stream flow in the riverine system, and they serve as a protective buffer between the channel and surrounding uplands. Species (e.g., salmon) that move between fresh water and saltwater are dependent on both coastal and riparian wetlands. Annually, the salmon industry in Alaska employs approximately 22,000 people. The annual value of this fishery to commercial harvesters is \$600 million.

Many wetlands serve to temporarily store flood waters, thereby protecting downstream property owners from flood damage. The flood storage function also helps to slow the velocity of water, which reduces the water's erosive potential. This function of wetlands is increasingly important in Alaska's towns and cities, where development has increased the rate and volume of surface-water runoff and the potential for flood damage. In areas of Alaska where permafrost is common, the ability of wetlands to store floodwaters is reduced.

Subsistence use of wetland resources in Alaska is extensive. In most areas, wetland habitats provide resources upon which Native village economies are based. A major portion of hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering activities occur in wetlands areas (Ellenna and Wheeler 1986). Fish and wildlife resources harvested for subsistence use and dependent on wetlands include five species of salmon, shellfish, ducks, geese, beaver, and otter. Plant materials frequently collected from wetlands include blueberries, cranberries, Labrador tea, and willow.

Harvest of migratory waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and common snipe by non-rural hunters averages about 68,000 birds per year. Over 25,000 Alaska hunters take waterbirds annually, with approximately 400,000 birds harvested each year.

The diversity of plant and animal life in wetlands makes them a valuable resource for nonconsumptive recreation such as wildlife viewing and photography. Wetlands, particularly in urban areas, also provide valuable recreational and educational opportunities, open space, and aesthetic enjoyment.

WETLAND LOSSES

Although there is no completely accurate comprehensive data on wetland losses in Alaska, the USFWS estimates that the state has lost 200,000 acres, or less than one percent of the state's original wetland acreage. A 1989 report on the effects of petroleum operations in Alaska wetlands prepared by Senner (1989) for ARCO Alaska estimated cumulative wetland losses from human activity at 80,000 acres since the time of territorial accession in 1867. The report indicated that the loss estimates would be substantially higher if a complete and more accurate inventory were conducted. In most states, the destruction of wetlands through draining and filling has been much more dramatic. More than 80 percent of the wetlands have disappeared in California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio. As a whole, the lower 48 states have lost an estimated 53 percent of their original wetland acreage.

The estimate of total wetland losses in Alaska was determined by the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory staff using a limited amount of actual wetland loss data. Existing trends data covers a few isolated locations, or in some cases was developed only to measure the loss of wetlands from a specific type of development activity. Alaska is not included in the USFWS national wetlands status and trends project, which monitors wetlands losses and gains in ten-year intervals.

While total wetland losses relative to Alaska's vast wetland acreage have been small compared to other areas of the country, the loss of wetlands has been significant in specific areas. The rapid growth of urban centers and the expanding development of oil, gas, mineral, agricultural and timber resources have impacted wetlands in many locations.

Urban development and construction of transportation systems account for the greatest loss of wetlands in Alaska. The state's three largest cities (Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau) are located in areas where wetland density is high. Many towns and villages in northern and western Alaska are built almost entirely on land classified as wetlands. In 1982, the potential for urban expansion to impact remaining wetlands in Anchorage led to the establishment of a local comprehensive wetland management plan. The USFWS conducted an analysis of the losses of wetlands in the Anchorage Bowl. In 1950 the Bowl contained 18,903 acres of wetland. By 1990, 52.7 percent (9,958 acres) of the 1950 wetland base was lost from draining and filling activities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1993).

The USFWS completed a wetlands trends analysis for the Juneau area in 1986 and included the data as part of the 1987 Juneau Wetland Management Plan (Adamus 1988). The 15,606-acre study area represented most of the developable land in Juneau and vicinity. Wetlands in 1948 comprised 59 percent, or 9,208 acres, of the study area. Based on the analysis of aerial photography, a total of 1,162 acres were filled between 1948 and 1984, representing a loss of about 13 percent of the wetland acreage present in 1948.

Oil and gas development in Alaska has primarily impacted wetlands on the North Slope and along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Wetland loss as a result of all North Slope petroleum exploration, production, and support activities is estimated at 9,160 acres. An additional 10,900 acres were filled on the North Slope for the construction of TAPS and the associated Dalton Highway. Dalton Highway and TAPS construction in areas south of the North

Slope has resulted in a loss of approximately 9,250 acres of wetlands (Semner 1989).

Wetlands in some regions of Alaska have been impacted by the mining of mineral and/or coal resources. Placer mining for gold accounts for most of the wetland losses in this development category. The greatest concentrations of placer mining operations occur in the north central part of the state and on the Seward Peninsula. Wetland density is high in these areas due to the presence of permafrost. Many placer mining sites are located in temporarily or seasonally flooded riparian wetlands. The mining operation includes moving and processing large volumes of earth which may be placed on wetlands. In addition to the loss of wetlands, placer mining may also result in the conversion of natural, undisturbed wetland types to highly modified wetlands such as artificial impoundments or seasonally flooded tailings surfaces.

Wetland losses and alteration due to agricultural development occur primarily in regions underlain by permafrost. Hydric soils in these areas are maintained in a saturated condition by the permafrost layer, which restricts the downward movement of water. Conversion of the poorly drained wetland soils to well-drained soils suitable for agriculture is accomplished by removing the insulating organic surface layer and vegetation cover. Natural drainage of the soil occurs after the soil warms and the permafrost table recedes.

Most of the wetland loss due to agricultural development occurs in the Tanana River basin. Approximately 90,000 acres of land in the area have been cleared for agricultural projects. Surveys published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) indicate that some of the soils in the cleared areas were wetland (hydric) soils prior to development. These wetlands were dominated primarily by black spruce and deciduous shrubs. Measurements of the actual extent of wetland losses in this region have not been made.

Wetland impacts resulting from activities associated with the forest products industry in Alaska are concentrated in the southeast region, but also occur elsewhere in the State. The greatest loss of wetland acreage is due to fill activities from the construction of logging roads. While wetlands are often avoided during construction because of engineering and environmental considerations, their extensive coverage makes it impractical to avoid all wetlands. Most logging occurs in non-wetland areas. The cutting that is done in some needle-leaved evergreen forested wetlands does not usually result in wetland loss. However, the logging activity significantly alters the functions of the wetland areas.

This discussion has focused on the direct loss of wetland acreage in Alaska from filling, draining, or dredging activities. These practices are readily observable, and the resulting cumulative loss of wetlands can be practicably measured. Less apparent is the indirect deterioration of wetland quality resulting from the discharges of materials (e.g., sediment, nutrient loading, pesticides, herbicides, and other pollutants) into wetland environments. Greater attention needs to be paid to the effects of these pollutants on the quality of Alaska's wetlands, particularly as industrial development activities (e.g., municipal wastes, mining, oil and gas, and agriculture) expand in

many regions of the state. Alaska has the opportunity to wisely manage wetlands before significant statewide destruction and degradation occurs. In most states this opportunity was lost decades ago.

WETLAND THREATS

Many of the threats to the wetlands base in Alaska are concentrated around the state's population centers. As the population grows, wetlands will be impacted by residential and commercial development, and associated infrastructure (e.g., roads, utility corridors, airport expansion, and port development). Some impacts are unavoidable as wetlands are a dominant landscape feature in many communities. For example, in some towns and villages in western and northern Alaska over 80 percent of the land surrounding the townsites are classified as wetlands. Wetlands in the coastal zone will be particularly affected by development since population growth is expected to increase more rapidly in coastal areas.

In addition to community expansion, wetlands in Alaska will continue to be affected by other development. It is anticipated that more placer mining will impact riparian wetlands, particularly in the northern half of Alaska. Many proposed mining projects are located in areas where wetlands are common. Oil and gas development has the potential to cause wetland losses in certain areas. It is estimated that 5,000 acres of wetlands will be covered with gravel if large-scale oil development occurs on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Department of the Interior 1987). Construction of the proposed Trans-Alaska Gas System, an 800-mile pipeline designed to transport natural gas from the North Slope to Valdez, would directly affect approximately 10,800 acres of wetland habitat (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1988).

Annual wetland losses from logging and from agricultural development are now at a rate less than in the past. An improved farm economy in Alaska would stimulate additional land clearing activities in the areas that have a high potential for agriculture. These wetland losses would occur primarily in Interior Alaska.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been delegated responsibility in this area. In some cases, project impacts are such that compensatory mitigation is appropriate.

To address this issue, the Alaska District of the Corps of Engineers is in the process of establishing a statewide "in lieu" fee program which would provide a mechanism for fees to be paid to nonprofit organizations when mitigation is appropriate, but not practicable, or difficult to implement. Corps' regulatory customers may, in appropriate cases, opt to pay an in-lieu fee to a partnering state or local non-profit land or natural resource organization. The organization will, when sufficient funds are obtained, acquire, preserve, enhance, create, rehabilitate, or restore wetlands and other aquatic areas in the general area of the impacting projects. Examples of acceptable uses of in-lieu fees include, but are not limited to, acquisition of high quality aquatic habitat areas, including wetlands; establishing wetland buffer zones or conservation easements to

protect important aquatic resources; and replacing the loss of aquatic resource values by recreating, restoring, and enhancing similar functions. This program is a potential resource to supplement the SCORP's wetland acquisition program.

SCORP PRIORITIES FOR ACQUISITION

To be given priority consideration for acquisition, a wetland site must meet the following four criteria:

1. Represent a rare or declining wetland type within an ecoregion;
2. Be subject to identifiable threat of loss or degradation;
3. Provide a high degree of public recreation benefit or value (including wildlife viewing), at present or potentially in the future (wildlife viewing is a popular, increasing value); and,
4. Be located within 50 miles of an urban or semi-urban or recreation/tourism area, including but not limited to Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Denali, Palmer-Wasilla, Kenai-Soldotna, Kodiak, Ketchikan, and Sitka.

Criterion 1 is concerned with specific, scientifically delineated wetland types (e.g., Estuarine Intertidal Emergent, Palustrine Scrub/Shrub) that are rare and/or declining within ecoregions of the State. In other regions of the United States, where wetlands trends information is available, SCORPs are able to specifically identify rare and declining wetland types. In Alaska, this information is extremely limited due to the incomplete wetland inventory information and trends data. Consequently, this factor is not as critical in Alaska as it is in other states where significant losses of wetland types have been documented. For the purpose of setting priorities for wetlands acquisitions, Alaska will rely on case-by-case determinations and expert opinion. When wetland acquisitions are proposed, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game authorities will be consulted on a case-by-case basis for a scientific, site-specific determination as to whether the site represents a rare or declining wetland type within that ecoregion and higher priority should be awarded accordingly.

Criterion 4 recognizes that most of Alaska's wetland losses have been in developed areas. Because accessible wetlands near population centers or recreation concentration areas have more recreational value for more people, they should receive priority for acquisition assistance with limited grant-funds.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Outdoor Recreation Survey, October 1997 (Selected Statewide Results);
Community Provider Mail Out Survey Form

Appendix B: 1992-1997 Comparisons

Appendix C: Local Recreation Plan Guidelines

Appendix D: Public Workshop Comment Summaries; Public Review Comments

Appendix E: Bibliography and Information Sources (including websites)

APPENDIX A
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY
 IVAN MOORE RESEARCH
 TEL: 278-4600

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Ivan Moore Research, an Anchorage public opinion research firm. We are conducting an important statewide opinion survey for the State of Alaska, Division of Parks, to help us understand what Alaskans do for outdoor recreation and how we can meet future recreation needs. Your answers will be combined with those of other Alaskans as part of a statewide outdoor recreation plan. The plan will be used by policymakers to determine where and how funds for outdoor recreation should be allocated for State and local recreation projects. Your telephone number has been selected randomly. Your opinions are important to us, and we'd appreciate your participation if that's OK with you.

S1. Is this a residential telephone?

S2. Are you an Alaska resident?

S3. Are you 18 years old or older?

1. How important are parks and outdoor recreation to your lifestyle? Are parks and outdoor recreation very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant to your lifestyle?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
VERY IMPORTANT.....	351.....	58.5%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT.....	198.....	33.1%
NEUTRAL.....	0.....	0.1%
SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT.....	34.....	5.7%
VERY UNIMPORTANT.....	16.....	2.6%
(Mean = 3.393)		

2A. Overall, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services _____?

	4 VERY SAT	3 SOMEWHAT SAT	2 NEUTRAL	1 SOMEWHAT DISSAT	0 VERY DISSAT	MEAN
In your community.....	22.9%	48.5%	7.1%	16.9%	4.6%	2.683
Outside your community but within one hour..	16.0%	49.2%	21.5%	9.2%	4.1%	2.638

2B. Why are you dissatisfied with parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services in your community?

REASON _____

2C. Why are you dissatisfied with parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services outside your community but within one hour?

REASON _____

2D. How important to you is a statewide system of interconnected, marked and maintained trails in Alaska? Is it very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant.

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
VERY IMPORTANT.....	228.....	38.0%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT.....	206.....	34.3%
NEUTRAL.....	17.....	2.8%
SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT.....	97.....	16.2%
VERY UNIMPORTANT.....	52.....	8.7%

(Mean = 2.768)

2E. How important are off-road trails (those that don't run alongside a road or highway) to your recreation lifestyle? Are they very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
VERY IMPORTANT.....	222.....	37.0%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT.....	196.....	32.6%
NEUTRAL.....	17.....	2.8%
SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT.....	109.....	18.2%
VERY UNIMPORTANT.....	56.....	9.4%

(Mean = 2.696)

3. Which of the following items do you or does someone in your household own?

	1 YES	2 NO
Fishing equipment.....	92.1%	7.9%
Backpack.....	90.2%	9.8%
Bicycle.....	84.5%	15.5%
Tent.....	83.7%	16.3%
Hunting equipment.....	71.9%	28.1%
Skis.....	60.8%	39.2%
Canoe or raft.....	38.5%	61.5%
Motorboat.....	37.0%	63.0%
Snowmachine.....	31.2%	68.8%
ORV or ATV.....	30.4%	69.6%
RV.....	24.8%	75.2%
Sea Kayak.....	6.1%	93.9%
Dog Team.....	4.1%	95.9%
Sailboat.....	3.1%	96.9%
Jetski.....	1.6%	98.4%

I'm now going to read you a list of outdoor recreation activities and ask you about your preferences and habits.

4A. How many times in the last twelve months have you been _____?

ACTIVITIES	HAVEN'T PARTICIPATED	ONE OR MORE	TOTAL MEAN	USER MEAN
Driving for pleasure or				
Sightseeing.....	14.3%	85.7%	27.71	32.33
Picnicking.....	23.9%	76.1%	10.15	13.33
Sportfishing.....	24.1%	75.9%	16.20	21.35
Birdwatching or				
Wildlife viewing.....	26.2%	73.8%	27.94	37.85
Walking for fitness.....	27.5%	72.5%	36.06	49.72
Day hiking.....	31.3%	68.7%	13.03	18.99
Bicycling or Mountain Biking.....	32.6%	67.4%	22.04	32.71
Playgrounds or Open Space				
Activities at a local park.....	36.7%	63.3%	14.33	22.63
Berry Picking.....	39.0%	61.0%	4.86	7.97
Clamming or Beachcombing.....	46.7%	53.3%	6.73	12.65
Tent camping in a campground.....	51.6%	48.4%	4.27	8.82
Sledding.....	54.2%	45.8%	7.11	15.53
Backpacking or tent camping				
in backcountry.....	54.7%	45.3%	4.60	10.14
Firearms or Archery Target				
shooting.....	56.1%	43.9%	8.15	18.59
Powerboating.....	57.7%	42.3%	8.74	20.72
Jogging or running				
out-of-doors.....	62.6%	37.4%	17.00	45.48
Outside field games such as				
soccer or softball.....	62.7%	37.3%	10.76	28.84
Walking the dog.....	63.3%	36.7%	23.07	62.84
Snowmachining.....	63.6%	36.4%	11.24	30.87
Sport Hunting.....	64.4%	35.6%	5.14	14.44
ORV or ATV riding.....	67.1%	32.9%	9.43	28.62
Outside court games such as				
tennis or basketball.....	67.5%	32.5%	7.74	23.81
River canoeing, rafting				
or floating.....	68.7%	31.3%	3.19	10.19
RV Camping.....	71.1%	28.9%	3.44	11.90
Swimming outdoors.....	71.8%	28.2%	3.18	11.28
Trail Skiing or Crosscountry				
skiing.....	72.6%	27.4%	5.48	20.03
Ice skating or Ice hockey				
out-of-doors.....	74.0%	26.0%	5.03	19.40
Downhill skiing.....	75.9%	24.1%	2.97	12.31
Golf.....	82.5%	17.5%	2.30	13.08
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing.....	88.9%	11.1%	0.76	6.83
Backcountry skiing.....	89.4%	10.6%	1.40	13.16
Dogmushing or skijoring.....	92.0%	8.0%	2.28	28.32
Jetskiing.....	93.3%	6.7%	0.47	6.96
Horseback riding.....	93.7%	6.3%	0.61	9.53
Sea Kayaking.....	95.2%	4.8%	0.59	12.32
Sailing or windsurfing.....	96.0%	4.0%	0.42	10.39
Motocross.....	96.3%	3.7%	1.61	43.33

4B. (IF ONE OR MORE TO 4A, THEN ASK...) For each activity you've done in the last year, tell me how far away the facilities you use most often for each activity are? Are they within your community, are they outside your community but less than an hour away, or are they more than an hour away?

	HAVEN'T PARTICIPATED	1 WITHIN COMMUNITY	2 WITHIN AN HOUR	3 MORE THAN AN HOUR	MEAN
RV Camping.....	71.1%	2.9%	3.8%	22.2%	2.67
Sport Hunting.....	64.4%	6.0%	7.4%	22.2%	2.46
Tent camping in campground.....	51.6%	10.4%	11.7%	26.3%	2.33
Backpacking or tent camping in backcountry.....	54.7%	10.4%	11.7%	23.2%	2.28
Powerboating.....	57.7%	11.1%	12.1%	19.1%	2.19
Sportfishing.....	24.1%	21.6%	20.7%	33.6%	2.16
Backcountry skiing.....	89.4%	2.5%	4.1%	4.0%	2.15
River canoeing, rafting or floating.....	68.7%	8.3%	11.2%	11.8%	2.11
Sailing or windsurfing.....	96.0%	1.3%	0.9%	1.8%	2.11
Sea Kayaking.....	95.2%	1.1%	2.0%	1.6%	2.11
Driving for pleasure or Sightseeing.....	14.3%	25.2%	28.1%	32.5%	2.09
Snowmachining.....	63.6%	12.6%	8.9%	14.9%	2.06
Clamming or Beachcombing.....	46.7%	19.3%	12.5%	21.5%	2.04
Downhill skiing.....	75.9%	6.9%	10.0%	7.2%	2.01
Jetskiing.....	93.3%	2.3%	2.4%	2.0%	1.96
Motocross.....	96.3%	1.8%	0.5%	1.5%	1.91
ORV or ATV riding.....	67.1%	13.9%	7.9%	11.1%	1.91
Rockclimbing/Iceclimbing.....	88.9%	4.1%	4.9%	2.1%	1.82
Horseback riding.....	93.7%	3.0%	1.4%	1.9%	1.81
Berry Picking.....	39.0%	27.5%	21.0%	12.5%	1.75
Day hiking.....	31.3%	32.4%	22.3%	14.0%	1.73
Swimming outdoors.....	71.8%	15.2%	6.4%	6.5%	1.69
Dogmushing or skijoring.....	92.0%	4.3%	2.0%	1.7%	1.68
Firearms or Archery Target shooting.....	56.1%	23.0%	13.4%	7.5%	1.65
Picnicking.....	23.9%	40.9%	22.3%	12.9%	1.63
Birdwatching or Wildlife viewing.....	26.2%	42.3%	19.2%	12.3%	1.59
Trail Skiing or Crosscountry skiing.....	72.6%	18.2%	6.3%	2.9%	1.44
Golf.....	82.5%	12.3%	3.2%	2.0%	1.42
Sledding.....	54.2%	34.5%	7.8%	3.4%	1.32
Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors.....	74.0%	21.2%	3.1%	1.7%	1.25
Bicycling/Mountain biking.....	32.6%	55.2%	9.2%	3.0%	1.23
Outdoor field games such as soccer or softball.....	62.7%	31.3%	4.2%	1.8%	1.21
Playgrounds or Open Space Activities at local park.....	36.7%	55.3%	4.9%	3.1%	1.18
Walking for fitness.....	27.5%	63.9%	4.7%	3.9%	1.17
Jogging or running out-of-doors.....	62.6%	32.6%	3.7%	1.0%	1.15
Walking the dog.....	63.3%	33.5%	1.8%	1.5%	1.13
Outside court games such as tennis or basketball.....	67.5%	29.2%	2.9%	0.5%	1.12

5. Of the outdoor activities we have just gone through, can you please tell me which your three favorites are in order of preference. Which is your favorite activity? Second favorite? Third favorite?

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	TOTAL
SPORTFISHING.....	15.2%	15.4%	8.6%	39.2%
WALKING FOR FITNESS.....	10.9%	8.1%	7.9%	26.9%
SPORT HUNTING.....	8.1%	4.5%	5.6%	18.2%
DAY HIKING.....	5.0%	6.7%	5.1%	16.8%
SNOWMACHINING.....	6.6%	4.2%	4.8%	15.4%
DRIVING FOR PLEASURE OR SIGHTSEEING..	4.1%	2.1%	7.6%	13.8%
BICYCLING OR MOUNTAIN BIKING.....	4.1%	6.7%	2.5%	13.3%
BACKPACK/TENT CAMPING IN BACKCOUNTRY..	2.5%	5.4%	4.8%	12.7%
BIRDWATCHING OR WILDLIFE VIEWING.....	2.6%	4.4%	4.0%	11.0%
TENT CAMPING IN A CAMPGROUND.....	2.5%	3.7%	4.2%	10.4%
POWERBOATING.....	3.5%	3.0%	3.3%	9.8%
TRAIL OR CROSSCOUNTRY SKIING.....	2.4%	3.0%	3.7%	9.1%
DOWNHILL SKIING.....	4.1%	2.5%	2.4%	9.0%
PICNICKING.....	1.6%	3.2%	3.9%	8.7%
RV CAMPING.....	2.5%	3.9%	2.2%	8.6%
JOGGING OR RUNNING OUT-OF-DOORS.....	3.0%	1.6%	1.8%	6.4%
BERRY PICKING.....	1.6%	1.6%	3.0%	6.2%
CLAMMING OR BEACHCOMBING.....	2.0%	2.2%	1.9%	6.1%
WALKING THE DOG.....	0.8%	2.2%	2.8%	5.8%
OUTDOOR FIELD GAMES				
(SOCCER, SOFTBALL).....	3.2%	1.2%	0.8%	5.2%
ORV OR ATV RIDING.....	1.0%	1.7%	2.5%	5.2%
SWIMMING OUTDOORS.....	1.3%	0.8%	1.7%	3.8%
PLAYGROUNDS OR OPEN SPACE ACTIVITIES..	1.0%	1.7%	0.9%	3.6%
GOLF.....	1.6%	1.1%	0.7%	3.4%
RIVER CANOEING, RAFTING OR FLOATING..	0.9%	1.6%	0.9%	3.4%
SLEDDING.....	0.1%	1.0%	1.8%	2.9%
OUTSIDE COURT GAMES (TENNIS, BBALL)..	1.2%	0.7%	0.7%	2.6%
DOGMUSHING OR SKIJORING.....	0.7%	0.9%	0.5%	2.1%
ICE SKATING OR ICE HOCKEY				
OUT-OF-DOORS.....	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	1.7%
FIREARMS OR ARCHERY TARGET SHOOTING..	0.6%	0.2%	0.7%	1.5%
BACKCOUNTRY SKIING.....	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%	1.4%
SEA KAYAKING.....	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%	1.4%
JETSKIING.....	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	1.2%
HORSEBACK RIDING.....	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%
MOTOCROSS.....	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%
ROCKCLIMBING OR ICECLIMBING.....	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%	0.8%
SAILING OR WINDSURFING.....	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.7%
DON'T KNOW.....	1.0%	2.7%	5.7%	

6A. Of the outdoor activities we have just gone through that you didn't participate in, please identify three activities you would most like to do this year if you had the opportunity.

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	TOTAL
SNOWMACHINING.....	7.0%	6.0%	2.7%	15.7%
DOWNHILL SKIING.....	9.6%	3.9%	1.6%	15.1%
SEA KAYAKING.....	5.3%	4.5%	2.7%	12.5%
JETSKIING.....	4.3%	4.7%	3.3%	12.3%
TRAIL OR CROSSCOUNTRY SKIING.....	4.8%	5.2%	2.2%	12.2%
HORSEBACK RIDING.....	3.0%	2.1%	3.7%	8.8%
SAILING OR WINDSURFING.....	3.6%	2.9%	1.7%	8.2%
POWERBOATING.....	2.4%	1.8%	2.6%	6.8%
RIVER CANOEING, RAFTING OR FLOATING.....	2.6%	1.8%	1.5%	5.9%
SPORTFISHING.....	2.9%	1.7%	1.1%	5.7%
BACKPACK/TENT CAMPING IN BACKCOUNTRY.....	2.1%	2.4%	0.9%	5.4%
SPORT HUNTING.....	3.0%	1.0%	0.9%	4.9%
ICE SKATING OR ICE HOCKEY				
OUT-OF-DOORS.....	2.0%	0.6%	2.2%	4.8%
SWIMMING OUTDOORS.....	1.6%	0.8%	2.3%	4.7%
ROCKCLIMBING OR ICECLIMBING.....	1.7%	1.8%	1.1%	4.6%
DOGMUSHING OR SKIJORING.....	2.9%	0.5%	1.2%	4.6%
BACKCOUNTRY SKIING.....	1.2%	2.2%	1.1%	4.5%
ORV OR ATV RIDING.....	2.1%	1.4%	0.9%	4.4%
SLEDDING.....	1.3%	1.1%	1.6%	4.0%
GOLF.....	1.6%	1.5%	0.8%	3.9%
RV CAMPING.....	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	3.8%
OUTSIDE COURT GAMES (TENNIS, BBALL).....	0.6%	1.3%	1.4%	3.3%
DAY HIKING.....	1.3%	1.6%	0.4%	3.3%
FIREARMS OR ARCHERY TARGET SHOOTING.....	0.4%	0.8%	1.6%	2.8%
MOTOCROSS.....	0.8%	1.6%	0.1%	2.5%
BICYCLING OR MOUNTAIN BIKING.....	1.4%	0.7%	0.3%	2.4%
BERRY PICKING.....	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%	2.3%
TENT CAMPING IN A CAMPGROUND.....	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	2.1%
PICNICKING.....	0.5%	0.4%	1.1%	2.0%
BIRDWATCHING OR WILDLIFE VIEWING.....	0.9%	0.4%	0.7%	2.0%
CLAMMING OR BEACHCOMBING.....	0.1%	0.6%	1.0%	1.7%
OUTDOOR FIELD GAMES				
(SOCCER, SOFTBALL).....	0.9%	0.1%	0.2%	1.2%
WALKING FOR FITNESS.....	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	1.1%
JOGGING OR RUNNING OUT-OF-DOORS.....	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%
PLAYGROUNDS OR OPEN SPACE ACTIVITIES.....	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
WALKING THE DOG.....	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
DRIVING FOR PLEASURE OR SIGHTSEEING.....	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
DON'T KNOW.....	24.1%	41.4%	53.8%	

6B. (FOR EACH OF THESE THREE ACTIVITIES...) Is _____ available to you in your area?

NO ACTIVITY YES NO

FIRST CHOICE.....	24.1%.....	51.3%.....	24.6%
SECOND CHOICE.....	41.4%.....	42.1%.....	16.5%
THIRD CHOICE.....	53.8%.....	35.2%.....	11.0%

6C. (IF "YES" TO 6B FOR ANY CHOICES...) If _____ is available to you in your area, why didn't you do it last year?

FIRST CHOICE REASON _____

SECOND CHOICE REASON _____

THIRD CHOICE REASON _____

7. I am now going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree or strongly disagree with each statement I read. (IF "AGREE" OR "DISAGREE", ASK "STRONGLY" OR "MILDLY"...)

4	3	2	1	0	
STRONGLY	MILDLY		MILDLY	STRONGLY	
AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	DISAGREE	MEAN

Use of park areas should be controlled to protect the environment, if necessary.....58.4%...32.0%....2.7%....5.1%.....1.8%....3.403

If overcrowding occurs, commercial uses should be limited before personal uses are limited.....55.1%...29.6%....4.6%....7.4%.....3.3%....3.258

The state should increase protection of areas with historical or archaeological value...52.0%...31.0%....6.0%....8.8%.....2.1%....3.220

Use of park areas and facilities should be limited when they become too crowded.....29.4%...40.1%....7.1%...16.9%.....6.5%....2.690

	4	3	2	1	0	
	STRONGLY	MILDLY		MILDLY	STRONGLY	
	AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	DISAGREE	MEAN
Public parks and recreation programs help to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community.....	38.0%	26.2%	9.7%	15.9%	10.2%	2.661
Existing parks should be expanded to include adjacent land that is important to recreation.....	25.3%	41.9%	10.9%	15.1%	6.8%	2.636
Access to military lands for recreation purposes should be improved.....	27.6%	30.7%	19.0%	13.5%	9.2%	2.541
Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them.....	32.1%	28.0%	8.2%	24.8%	6.9%	2.537
There are enough parks and recreation lands that are convenient and accessible to me....	29.6%	36.2%	3.3%	15.9%	15.0%	2.493
The state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities....	28.0%	31.8%	9.2%	17.2%	13.8%	2.430
Trails should accomodate many different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number of specific activities....	26.2%	33.0%	5.8%	21.1%	14.0%	2.363
Parks and recreation lands should be used to promote tourism.....	20.5%	37.8%	4.0%	20.2%	17.4%	2.237
I seek out recreational places that have historic significance..	16.6%	33.4%	6.2%	30.6%	13.2%	2.095
Hearing motors or motorized vehicles negatively affects my recreation experience..	25.3%	25.5%	3.7%	22.8%	22.7%	2.080

8. I am now going to read you a list of possible improvements and developments that could be carried out on outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Alaska. Bearing in mind your outdoor recreation preferences and also that funds could be in relatively short supply in the next few years, please tell me if you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove with each of the following proposals.

	4	3	2	1	0	
	STRONGLY	MILDLY		MILDLY	STRONGLY	
	APPROVE	APPROVE	NEUTRAL	DISAPPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MEAN
Provide more facilities for the disabled.....	49.2%	37.1%	3.8%	7.3%	2.5%	3.232
Expand the public use cabin system....	41.4%	38.1%	10.1%	6.2%	4.3%	3.063
Construct public use cabins or shelters at periodic intervals along long distance trails.....	37.2%	42.3%	4.7%	9.0%	6.9%	2.939
Provide roadside toilets at regular intervals.....	37.2%	37.0%	5.3%	12.7%	7.8%	2.831
Develop more drive-in campgrounds for tents.....	29.4%	47.1%	4.4%	13.6%	5.5%	2.813
Develop more trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities....	31.4%	44.9%	4.2%	12.2%	7.2%	2.811
Develop more trails where no motorized vehicles are allowed.....	37.0%	36.6%	5.2%	11.6%	9.6%	2.798
Upgrade existing park roads.....	24.7%	46.0%	6.6%	16.4%	6.3%	2.663
Provide more picnic areas.....	27.1%	40.5%	6.5%	19.5%	6.4%	2.625
Provide more boat launches and ramps..	26.0%	36.7%	11.6%	19.0%	6.8%	2.561
Establish new parks and recreation areas.....	27.2%	39.9%	4.0%	18.5%	10.4%	2.549

	4	3	2	1	0	
	STRONGLY	MILDLY		MILDLY	STRONGLY	
	APPROVE	APPROVE	NEUTRAL	DISAPPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MEAN

Provide more RV dumpstations.....	27.8%	36.2%	8.8%	16.6%	10.6%	2.540
Provide more organized recreation programs in parks.....	22.9%	37.7%	5.5%	23.3%	10.6%	2.391
Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds..	30.3%	28.7%	3.8%	21.9%	15.3%	2.369
Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles...	24.8%	31.2%	5.0%	22.4%	16.6%	2.252
Develop more RV campgrounds.....	17.3%	34.8%	4.5%	23.5%	19.9%	2.061
Develop more visitor centers.....	15.7%	33.3%	5.0%	29.1%	16.9%	2.018
Develop tourist resort facilities on park lands.....	10.5%	30.8%	4.9%	24.2%	29.6%	1.685

9. Carrying out such improvements or developments costs money that could come from a variety of sources. Do you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove of the following proposals for funding parks and outdoor recreation programs.

	4	3	2	1	0	
	STRONGLY	MILDLY		MILDLY	STRONGLY	
	APPROVE	APPROVE	NEUTRAL	DISAPPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MEAN

Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.....	52.6%	34.4%	4.8%	4.7%	3.5%	3.278
Allocate a portion of annual ATV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.....	47.3%	37.2%	4.6%	6.2%	4.6%	3.163

Allocate a portion of
annual snowmobile
registration fees to
parks and outdoor
recreation programs.45.4%...38.5%....4.1%.....6.2%.....5.7%.....3.116

A small tax on the
purchase of
outdoor gear.....15.1%...27.6%....2.9%....19.0%.....35.4%.....1.679

Collect a 1 penny per
gallon gas tax to
be allocated for
parks and outdoor
recreation programs.21.5%...27.2%....3.5%....16.5%.....31.3%.....1.911

9A. If a statewide bond issue was put on the General election ballot
advocating funding parks and outdoor recreation programs with a bond package,
do you think you would vote for or against it?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FOR.....	391.....	65.2%
AGAINST.....	132.....	22.1%
DON'T KNOW.....	76.....	12.7%

9B. If you could purchase a \$10 pin, with the revenue from pin sales going
exclusively to help fund park and outdoor recreation programs, do you think
you would purchase one?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES.....	414.....	68.9%
NO.....	165.....	27.5%
DON'T KNOW.....	21.....	3.5%

10. However funds are raised, they can either be allocated towards
maintaining existing facilities or towards developing new ones. Do you think
money would be better spent maintaining existing facilities or developing new
facilities?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
MAINTAIN.....	464.....	77.3%
DEVELOP NEW.....	105.....	17.4%
DON'T KNOW.....	32.....	5.3%

11A. Would you be willing to pay user fees when you use public parks and recreation facilities to help cover maintenance and management costs?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
YES.....	484.....	80.7%
NO.....	99.....	16.4%
DON'T KNOW.....	17.....	2.9%

11B. What's the maximum amount you'd be willing to pay for day use of facilities such as fishing access sites or trailheads?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NOTHING.....	69.....	11.5%
\$1 TO \$5.....	326.....	54.4%
\$6 OR MORE.....	164.....	27.4%
(Mean = \$5.96)		
(Median = \$4.50)		
DON'T KNOW.....	40.....	6.7%

11C. How about for overnight camping (with no hookups)?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NOTHING.....	47.....	7.8%
\$1 TO \$5.....	174.....	29.0%
\$6 OR MORE.....	341.....	56.8%
(Mean = \$9.17)		
(Median = \$9.04)		
DON'T KNOW.....	38.....	6.3%

11D. How about public use cabins?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NOTHING.....	36.....	6.0%
\$1 TO \$5.....	27.....	4.5%
\$6 OR MORE.....	455.....	75.9%
(Mean = \$21.49)		
(Median = \$18.40)		
DON'T KNOW.....	82.....	13.6%

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

11E. In what year were you born?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
18-29.....	110.....	18.4%
30-34.....	88.....	14.7%
35-39.....	85.....	14.2%
40-49.....	171.....	28.5%
50+.....	145.....	24.2%
(Mean = 41.2 years)		
(Median = 39.8 years)		

12. Of the people currently living in your household, how many are children or adolescents aged 18 or under?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NONE.....	277.....	46.2%
ONE.....	93.....	15.5%
TWO.....	132.....	22.0%
THREE OR MORE.....	98.....	16.3%

13. Are you married, separated, divorced, widowed, never married and living with another adult, or never married and living alone?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
MARRIED.....	372.....	62.0%
SEPARATED.....	31.....	5.2%
DIVORCED.....	54.....	9.0%
WIDOWED.....	28.....	4.7%
SINGLE LIVING OTHER ADULT.....	52.....	8.7%
SINGLE LIVING ALONE.....	62.....	10.4%

14A. Approximately, what has been your total income for all wage earners in your household in 1996, before taxes and other deductions are made?

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
\$0 - \$40,000.....	193.....	32.2%
\$41,000 - \$80,000.....	236.....	39.4%
\$81,000+.....	102.....	16.9%
Refused.....	69.....	11.5%
(Mean = \$62,450)		
(Median = \$49,250)		

15. GENDER...

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
MALE.....	300.....	50.0%
FEMALE.....	300.....	50.0%

Thankyou very much for your help. Goodbye.

THE FOLLOWING VARIABLE WAS CALCULATED USING THE TELEPHONE PREFIX:

AREAS OF ANCHORAGE:

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Southeast.....	73.....	12.2%
Railbelt.....	449.....	74.8%
Rural Alaska.....	78.....	13.0%

THE FOLLOWING VARIABLES WERE CALCULATED USING THE MARITAL AND GENDER VARIABLES:

MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Married Males.....	186.....	31.0%
Married Females.....	186.....	31.0%
Single Males.....	114.....	19.0%
Single Females.....	114.....	19.0%

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

3601 C STREET, SUITE 1200
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503-5921
PHONE: (907) 269-8700

January 7, 1998

Dear Recreation Provider:

Alaska State Parks is updating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 1997-2001. This plan must be prepared every five years to keep Alaska eligible for matching federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. These grants assist eligible communities throughout Alaska with outdoor recreation development projects.

The SCORP is required to contain a current inventory of public outdoor recreation lands and facilities throughout the state. As State Liaison Officer for the LWCF program in Alaska, I urge you to assist in this effort by completing or updating the enclosed two sheets (an inventory form and four recreation questions) for your community.

This information, along with results of a statewide recreation telephone survey and public workshop input, will be used to identify types of projects that should receive high priority for funding through the LWCF program. An accurate accounting of public recreation lands and outdoor recreation facilities will also assist other statewide or regional recreation, and tourism-related planning efforts.

If you participated in the last SCORP, we have enclosed your previous sheets for informal ease in updating. Please update the information right on these sheets (cross out, change, write in, or attach additional sheets as necessary). Clear handwriting/printing is perfectly acceptable. If you did not participate in the last SCORP, we have enclosed clean sheets.

Updated and completed sheets should be mailed or faxed by FEBRUARY 10, 1998, to:

Ali Iliff, SCORP Project Manager
Alaska State Parks
3601 C Street, #1200
Anchorage, AK 99503
fax: (907) 269-8907.

Participating communities will receive a copy of the plan (expected completion in late June, 1998). If you have questions, please contact Ali at the address/fax above, or by phone (269-8699) or e-mail: Alice_Iliff@dnr.state.ak.us. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Tim Stratton
Director and State Liaison Officer

INSTRUCTIONS: PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY
INVENTORY/INFORMATION FOR 1997-2001 SCORP:

A. Remember that both sheets pertain to OUTDOOR recreation facilities and OUTDOOR recreation.

B. You may write/print legibly, or type (data will be compiled by region and statewide from these sheets; individual sheets will not be reproduced).

C. Please complete/update the one-page inventory form for your community. Do not leave any items blank:

If your community does not have any of the facilities, please write NONE or "0."

If information is not available, please write UNKNOWN or "UK."

Wherever possible, include numbers for facilities accessible by the disabled.

Keep in mind that:

Picnic and Play Areas also include shelters, equipped play areas.

Outdoor Recreational Courts also include basketball, tennis, volleyball, multi-use.

Recreational Diamonds & Fields also include baseball, soccer, softball, track & field.

Nonmotorized Trails (miles) also includes walk/bicycle/fitness, boardwalks, cross-country ski, horseback, dog mushing, nature/interpretive, canoe routes.

Motorized Trails (miles) also includes ATV, motorcycle, snowmachine.

Spectator Facilities also includes fairgrounds, wildlife viewing areas, overlooks.

Target Facilities also includes archery, rifle, trap/skeet ranges.

Winter RECREATION Facilities also includes outdoor ice skating rinks/areas, outdoor hockey rinks, sledding areas, warming huts.

Alpine Ski Areas also includes developed lift/warming hut, ski jump, luge/bobsled, snowboarding.

D. After you finish the inventory sheet, please complete/update the sheet with the 4 questions about specific OUTDOOR recreation needs in your community.

E. Return both sheets to Ali Iliff, Alaska State Parks, 3601 C Street, #1200, Anchorage, AK 99503, or fax to 269-8907 by FEBRUARY 10, 1998. Thank you!

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY
for 1997 - 2001 SCORP

Please answer the following questions:

As a recreation manager, what do you consider to be your community's greatest outdoor recreation needs? (Please rank the following in order of importance.)

- _____ Park land acquisition
- _____ Developed facilities (e.g., ball fields, trails, etc.)
- _____ Organized programs/trained staff
- _____ Disabled access to existing facilities
- _____ Maintenance of existing facilities
- _____ Other (specify) _____

As a community, what are your greatest outdoor recreation facility needs?

What are the most significant barriers to outdoor recreation in your community?

What are the most significant outdoor recreation needs or issues in your region? (Use extra sheets, if needed.)

Thank you for your assistance.

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS AND FACILITY INVENTORY
for 1997 - 2001 SCORP**

NAME OF COMMUNITY: _____

RESPONDENT'S NAME/TITLE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Park Land Inventory

UNIT TYPE	NUMBER	ACREAGE
Community parks _____		
Greenbelts _____		

Outdoor Facility Inventory

<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u># OF UNITS</u>	<u># DISABLED</u>	<u>ACCESSIBLE UNITS</u>
Boat Docks and Ramps _____			
Campgrounds _____			
Dump Stations _____			
Campsites _____			
Golf Courses _____			
Picnic and Play Areas _____			
Recreational Courts _____			
Recreational Diamonds & Fields _____			
Outdoor Swimming Areas _____			
Motorized Trails (miles) _____			
Non-motorized Trails (miles) _____			
Developed Trails (Total # of trails) _____			
Spectator Facilities _____			
Target Facilities _____			
Winter Recreation Facilities _____			
Alpine Ski Areas _____			
Other (specify) _____			

1992-1997 COMPARISONS

OVERVIEW

The instrument used in 1997 was for the most part the same as the 1992 instrument. Certain new questions were added, and some defunct questions were removed, and some elements of existing questions were altered to correct for deficiencies in the 1992 instrument. To a considerable degree, however, results are comparable between 1992 and 1997. Certainly in terms of the methodological approach, the two surveys are entirely consistent with each other.

IMPORTANCE

Q: How important are parks and outdoor recreation to your lifestyle? Are parks and outdoor recreation very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant to your lifestyle?

	1992	1997
Very important	59.9%	58.5%
Somewhat important	34.9%	33.1%
Neutral	0.5%	0.1%
Somewhat unimportant	3.6%	5.7%
Very unimportant	1.1%	2.6%

We see a small but significant shift in the results, with the total unimportant rating increasing from 4.7% to 8.3%.

SATISFACTION

Q: Overall, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services in your community?

	1992	1997
Very satisfied	18.4%	22.9%
Somewhat satisfied	59.3%	48.5%
Neutral	4.8%	7.1%
Somewhat dissatisfied	14.9%	16.9%
Very dissatisfied	2.7%	4.6%

We see a shifting both ways, towards the negative and towards the very positive. The mean score, on a 0-4 scale, moved from 2.758 in 1992 to 2.683 in 1997.

Q: Overall, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services outside your community, but within one hour?

	1992	1997
Very satisfied	17.2%	16.0%
Somewhat satisfied	54.3%	49.2%
Neutral	14.6%	21.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	11.4%	9.2%
Very dissatisfied	2.4%	4.1%

Again the mean moved from 2.726 in 1992 to 2.638 in 1997.

EQUIPMENT

Rates of equipment ownership showed some interesting shifts. The following table summarizes:

Q: Which of the following items do you or does someone in your household own?

	1992	1997	Delta
Fishing equipment	88.0%	92.1%	+4.1%
Backpack	85.6%	90.2%	+4.6%
Bicycle	78.8%	84.5%	+5.7%
Tent	79.1%	83.7%	+4.6%
Hunting equipment	66.1%	71.9%	+5.8%
Skis	61.2%	60.8%	-0.4%
Canoe or raft	27.8%	38.5%	+10.7%
Motorboat	33.4%	37.0%	+3.6%
Snowmachine	NA	31.2%	NA
ORV/ATV	27.7%	30.4%	+2.7%
RV	22.1%	24.8%	+2.7%
Sea Kayak	6.1%	6.1%	No change
Dog Team	3.6%	4.1%	+0.5%
Sailboat	3.5%	3.1%	-0.4%
Jetski	NA	1.6%	NA

The table shows almost an across the board increase in ownership of sporting and recreational equipment. This can be probably be credited to the increased availability since 1992 of such equipment from such retail stores as Costco, Pace, The Sports Authority, as well as Kmart and Walmart, which have driven prices down and selection up.

PARTICIPATION

Q: How many times in the last twelve months have you been _____?

	1992	1997	Delta
Driving for pleasure or			
Sightseeing	81.3%	85.7%	+4.4%
Picnicking	76.2%	76.1%	-0.1%
Sportfishing	71.8%	75.9%	+4.1%
Birdwatching or			
Wildlife viewing	49.0%	73.8%	+24.8%
Walking for fitness	61.1%	72.5%	+11.4%
* Day hiking	65.6%	68.7%	+3.1%
Bicycling or Mountain Biking	63.8%	67.4%	+3.6%
* Playgrounds or Open Space			
Activities at a local park	45.9%	63.3%	+17.4%
Berry Picking	52.5%	61.0%	+8.5%
Clamming or Beachcombing	44.6%	53.3%	+8.7%
Tent camping in a campground	40.7%	48.4%	+7.7%
Sledding	45.8%	45.8%	No change
* Backpacking or tent camping			
in backcountry	32.7%	45.3%	+12.6%
Firearms or Archery Target			
shooting	42.7%	43.9%	+1.2%
Powerboating	28.0%	42.3%	+14.3%
* Jogging or running			
out-of-doors	29.2%	37.4%	+8.2%
* Outside field games such as			
soccer or softball	30.1%	37.3%	+7.2%
Walking the dog	NA	36.7%	NA
Snowmachining	26.0%	36.4%	+10.4%
Sport Hunting	28.1%	35.6%	+7.5%
ORV or ATV riding	23.5%	32.9%	+9.4%
* Outside court games such as			
tennis or basketball	32.0%	32.5%	+0.5%
River canoeing, rafting			
or floating	25.8%	31.3%	+5.5%
RV Camping	24.1%	28.9%	+4.8%
* Swimming outdoors	24.1%	28.2%	+4.1%
Trail Skiing or Crosscountry			
skiing	34.0%	27.4%	-6.6%
* Ice skating or Ice hockey			
out-of-doors	21.7%	26.0%	+4.3%

Downhill skiing	28.7%	24.1%	-4.6%
Golf	14.5%	17.5%	+3.0%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	8.0%	11.1%	+3.1%
Backcountry skiing	11.8%	10.6%	-1.2%
Dogmushing or skijoring	7.5%	8.0%	+0.5%
Jetskiing	NA	6.7%	NA
Horseback riding	9.6%	6.3%	-3.3%
Sea Kayaking	4.9%	4.8%	-0.1%
Sailing or windsurfing	4.9%	4.0%	-0.9%
Motocross	5.8%	3.7%	-2.1%

* represents those categories for which wording changed between 1992 and 1997, so comparisons for these categories are not wholly valid.

Generally speaking, increases are seen across the board for all kinds of activities. Large increases are seen for berrypicking, playgrounds and open-space activities, birdwatching as well as for the "engine sports", ORV/ATV riding, snowmachining and powerboating.

The only activities to show significant decreases were the skiing activities, downhill, trail and backcountry. Care must be taken to interpret these changes correctly since they may be due to climactic differences between the two years. Certainly, however, this result reflects the non-growth of ownership of skiing equipment.

As a footnote, it must be stressed that all these comparisons must be interpreted with full consideration given to the weather and related conditions. 1997's summer was by all accounts a good one, which may account for some of the increases we see here.

Activity frequency comparisons follow:

	1992	1997	Change
Driving for pleasure or			
Sightseeing	22.22	27.71	+5.49
Picnicking	8.88	10.15	+1.27
Sportfishing	14.85	16.20	+1.35
Birdwatching or			
Wildlife viewing	14.15	27.94	+13.79
Walking for fitness	30.41	36.06	+5.65
Day hiking	9.60	13.03	+3.43
Bicycling or Mountain Biking	21.83	22.04	+0.21
Playgrounds or Open Space			
Activities at a local park	7.40	14.33	+6.93
Berry Picking	3.70	4.86	+1.16
Clamming or Beachcombing	4.29	6.73	+2.44

Tent camping in a campground	3.60	4.27	+0.67
Sledding	5.38	7.11	+1.73
Backpacking or tent camping in backcountry	2.99	4.60	+1.61
Firearms or Archery Target shooting	5.92	8.15	+2.23
Powerboating	4.67	8.74	+4.07
Jogging or running out-of-doors	13.79	17.00	+3.21
Outside field games such as soccer or softball	7.82	10.76	+2.94
Walking the dog	NA	23.07	NA
Snowmachining	7.24	11.24	+4.00
Sport Hunting	3.11	5.14	+2.03
ORV or ATV riding	6.14	9.43	+3.29
Outside court games such as tennis or basketball	4.42	7.74	+3.32
River canoeing, rafting or floating	2.19	3.19	+1.00
RV Camping	3.11	3.44	+0.33
Swimming outdoors	3.94	3.18	-0.76
Trail Skiing or Crosscountry skiing	6.23	5.48	-0.75
Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors	2.37	5.03	+2.66
Downhill skiing	2.89	2.97	+0.08
Golf	2.11	2.30	+0.19
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	0.74	0.76	+0.02
Backcountry skiing	1.73	1.40	-0.33
Dogmushing or skijoring	1.74	2.28	+0.54
Jetskiing	NA	0.47	NA
Horseback riding	1.63	0.61	-1.02
Sea Kayaking	0.39	0.59	+0.20
Sailing or windsurfing	0.41	0.42	+0.01
Motocross	1.85	1.61	-0.24

Again, most of the trends are up, reflecting both higher levels of participation, and higher frequency by participants. In some cases, the average frequency of participation has doubled, birdwatching, playgrounds, powerboating and ice skating. Bear in mind, however, that when dealing with means, high figures can throw off a mean, particularly for the minor activities.

OPINIONS

Q: I am now going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree or strongly disagree with each statement I read.

Results are listed below as means on a 0-4 scale:

	1992	1997	Delta
Use of park areas should be controlled to protect the environment, if necessary	NA	3.403	NA
If overcrowding occurs, commercial uses should be limited before personal uses are limited	NA	3.258	NA
The state should increase protection of areas with historical or archaeological value	3.387	3.220	-0.167
Use of park areas and facilities should be limited when they become too crowded	2.798	2.690	-0.108
Public parks and recreation programs help to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community	2.631	2.661	+0.030
Existing parks should be expanded to include adjacent land that is important to recreation	NA	2.636	NA
Access to military lands for recreation purposes should be improved	2.732	2.541	-0.191
Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them	2.082	2.537	+0.455
There are enough parks and recreation lands that are convenient and accessible to me	2.562	2.493	-0.069
The state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities	2.653	2.430	-0.223

Trails should accomodate many different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number of specific activities	NA	2.363	NA
Parks and recreation lands should be used to promote tourism	2.527	2.237	-0.290
I seek out recreational places that have historic significance	NA	2.095	NA
Hearing motors or motorized vehicles negatively affects my recreation experience	NA	2.080	NA

By and large, agreement with all the statements decreased between the two surveys. The one standout exception is "Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them" which increased in agreement from 47.3% agree, 46.4% disagree in 1992 to 60.1% agree, 31.7% disagree in 1997. This is an extremely significant shift.

Q: I am now going to read you a list of possible improvements and developments that could be carried out on outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Alaska. Bearing in mind your outdoor recreation preferences and also that funds could be in relatively short supply in the next few years, please tell me if you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove with each of the following proposals.

	1992	1997	Delta
Provide more facilities for the disabled	3.466	3.232	-0.234
Expand the public use cabin system	3.136	3.063	-0.073
Construct public use cabins or shelters at periodic intervals along long distance trails	NA	2.939	NA
Provide roadside toilets at regular intervals	NA	2.831	NA
Develop more drive-in campgrounds for tents	2.909	2.813	-0.096
Develop more trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities	3.128	2.811	-0.317

Develop more trails where no motorized vehicles are allowed	2.928	2.798	-0.130
Upgrade existing park roads	2.832	2.663	-0.169
Provide more picnic areas	2.849	2.625	-0.224
Provide more boat launches and ramps	2.649	2.561	-0.088
Establish new parks and recreation areas	2.804	2.549	-0.255
Provide more RV dumpstations	2.841	2.540	-0.301
Provide more organized recreation programs in parks	2.669	2.391	-0.278
Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds	2.256	2.369	+0.113
Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles	2.182	2.252	+0.070
Develop more RV campgrounds	2.560	2.061	-0.499
Develop more visitor centers	2.408	2.018	-0.390
Develop tourist resort facilities on park lands	2.089	1.685	-0.404

All proposals decreased in popularity, with the exception of two, "Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds" and "Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles". They are still fairly unpopular proposals, but have improved significantly from 1992.

Q: Carrying out such improvements or developments costs money that could come from a variety of sources. Do you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove of the following proposals for funding parks and outdoor recreation programs.

	1992	1997	Delta
Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs	3.173	3.278	+0.105
Allocate a portion of annual ATV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs	NA	3.163	NA
Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs	NA	3.116	NA
Collect a 1 penny per gallon gas tax to be allocated for parks and outdoor recreation programs	2.038	1.911	-0.127
A small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear	NA	1.679	NA

Q: However funds are raised, they can either be allocated towards maintaining existing facilities or towards developing new ones. Do you think money would be better spent maintaining existing facilities or developing new facilities?

	1992	1997
Maintain	74.7%	77.3%
Develop new	23.3%	17.4%
Don't know	2.0%	5.3%

The swing since 1992 has moved even more in favor maintaining existing facilities.

Q: Would you be willing to pay user fees when you use public parks and recreation facilities to help cover maintenance and management costs?

	1992	1997
Yes	83.7%	80.7%
No	16.3%	16.4%
Don't know	0.0%	2.9%

Q: What's the maximum amount you'd be willing to pay for day use of facilities such as fishing access sites or trailheads?

	1992	1997
Mean	\$5.31	\$5.96
Median	\$5.00	\$4.50

11C. How about for overnight camping (with no hookups)?

	1992	1997
Mean	\$8.25	\$9.17
Median	\$6.67	\$9.04

This difference was recorded despite a change in the question wording that specified "no hookups".

APPENDIX C

LOCAL RECREATION PLAN GUIDELINES

Local recreation plan guidelines were developed to meet the requirements of Alaska's Open Project Selection Process (see Chapter 7). The plan substitutes for a comprehensive plan for sponsor communities that do not have such a plan in place. The local recreation plan must focus specifically on the sponsor's proposed project. On the basis of information provided by sponsors, the plan will be either accepted or rejected (and the appeal for a higher priority ranking approved or denied) by the Alaska State Parks staff evaluation committee.

A local plan must include:

1. Documentation of Planning Process

Copy of written proposal outlining the project including:

- Objective or justification for proposed project.
- The local need or deficiency addressed by the proposal.
- Population served by proposed project (age, etc.).
- Suitability of site (proximity to population being served, land status/ownership, environmental and construction considerations).
- Expected social cost to the community if proposal is not funded or developed.
- Proposed construction budget (including site preparation).
- Projected annual maintenance costs.
- Alternative to project (can this need be satisfied through other kinds of developments, less expensive designs, alternative locations, etc.).

2. Documentation of Public Participation

Documentation of how the public was informed of the proposal, how public comments were solicited (e.g., oral testimony, letter, phone call), and schedule for receiving comments.

Written summary of comments received and justification of final proposal decision.

3. Support of Local Government

Signed resolution by local government body supporting project.

4. Map

Map of community that identifies existing public recreation areas and site of the proposed project.

SIX KEYS TO DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL RECREATION PLAN/PROJECT

1. Know your Community.

Before a recreation project can be initiated or expanded intelligently, it is necessary to know the character, distribution of population, traditions, interests, needs, problems, and resources of the community.

2. Pool your resources.

Everyone in the community must work together to derive full use of community assets. Close cooperation and coordination among all public and private agencies is necessary if a community is to meet the recreational needs and interests of its citizens.

3. Check your legal authority.

Determine what authority you need and what you have. If necessary, work to get the laws that provide an adequate legal base to accomplish your goals. Authority to develop public recreation depends on state and local laws.

4. Make the most of existing facilities.

Are there existing facilities that can meet your needs, at least in part?

5. Ensure your project serves year-round need and has broad appeal among generations.

Community recreation should meet wide and varied needs, including different age groups and multiple uses, and should also be designed to accommodate people with physical disabilities.

6. Plan for the future.

Consider the following:

- Are universal design concepts used, to allow for use by the greatest number of people?
- Are facilities designed for expansion?
- Are they attractively designed to encourage participation?
- Are they designed for easy, low cost maintenance?
- Are they safe for users of all ages?
- Are the personal comforts of the participants part of the design?

APPENDIX D

SCORP PUBLIC WORKSHOPS/COMMENT SUMMARIES

Sixteen (16) public workshops were held during October, November, and December 1997 (complete list follows). Extensive publicity included newspaper, radio, e-mail, mailer, posting, word-of-mouth, and widespread notification using staff and other umbrella group distribution. Turnout in general was very positive, and many user groups were represented. Approximate total participation in all workshops was over 300, including written submissions from people who could not attend.

Workshop participants were asked to identify existing outdoor recreation facilities and any improvements necessary, desired new facilities, and constructive management recommendations. Each participant was given 5 sticky dots to highlight his or her 5 highest individual priorities in these categories. The purpose of this input is to provide an idea of local projects and recreational desires.

Results from each workshop are included in this appendix. The number of sticky dots each item received are included in parentheses. Lists are in descending order from highest total number of dots to items mentioned that did not receive a dot (an * means that a specific part of an item received one of the dots indicated). Written comments have been incorporated.

CAUTION: Readers are cautioned that these workshop lists in no way are statistically valid. They represent the individual preferences and desires of those attending. There were no right or wrong remarks (all comments were recorded and reported); no value judgments were made.

SCORP PUBLIC WORKSHOPS:

NOME: Thursday evening, October 16, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Nome City Council Chambers (61 Hunter Way)

KODIAK: Thursday evening, October 23, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Kodiak Island Borough Office, Conference Room 121 (710 Mill Bay Road)

JUNEAU: Tuesday evening, October 28, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Juneau High School Library (1639 Glacier Avenue)

SITKA: Wednesday evening, October 29, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Harrigan Centennial Hall, Rousseau Rm. (330 Harbor Dr.)

KETCHIKAN: Thursday evening, October 30, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Ketchikan City Council Chambers (334 Front St.; entrance in back)

SEWARD: Monday evening, November 3, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Seward City Hall Council Chambers (5th and Adams)

KENAI/SOLDOTNA: Wednesday evening, November 5, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers (144 N. Binkley), Soldotna

VALDEZ: Monday evening, November 10, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Valdez City Council Chambers (212 Chenega)

CORDOVA: Thursday evening, November 13, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Mt. Eccles Elementary School Cafeteria (Adams & 2nd)

DELTA JUNCTION: Monday evening, November 17, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Delta High School (School Road)

FAIRBANKS: Tuesday evening, November 18, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Alaskaland Blue Room (civic center top level), Airport Way/Peger Road

GLENNALLEN: Monday evening, November 24, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Glennallen Elementary School Media Center (Aurora Drive)

TOK: Tuesday evening, November 25, 1997, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
Tok Civic Center (1314 Alaska Highway)

WASILLA: Monday evening, December 1, 1997, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Wasilla City Hall Council Chambers, 1st floor (290 E. Herning Ave.)

HOMER: Tuesday evening, December 2, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
Homer High School-Commons Area (600 E. Fairview)

ANCHORAGE: Thursday evening, December 4, 1997, 6:30-8:30pm.
Z.J.Loussac Library, Public Conference Room, Level 1 (3600 Denali St.)

NOME WORKSHOP (October 16, 1997): 6 participants (includes 3 interviewees)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(3) East End Park

(2) Public use cabins

(1) Trails

(1) Iditarod Historic Trail

(1) Bike trails

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Develop campsite facilities.
- Have gold panning.
- Develop Rocker Gulch area (have mining display, signage, etc.).

- Need more general info on where they are and what they are for.

- Create a connection on the Council Road to the corduroy road.
- Develop trails to the 2 waterfalls (at Glacier Creek and Dorothy Creek on Kouguyak Road).
- Need signage.

- Preserve historic sites along it (old A.C. building in Flat; Dexter's Roadhouse in Golovin).
- Mark it for summer and winter use.
- Designate it (recognize it); have state and BLM cooperate and move forward, make it a priority.

- Extend them.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(3) Marked hiking and multi-use trails connecting to the roads to make loops, and trails for shorter hikes and multi-use, too.

(2) Rest room facilities along roads and trails.

(1) Snowboard half-pipe area.

(1) Iditarod visitor center (including museum, gift shop).

Reinstate the local narrow gauge railroad for visitors and residents to get to surrounding recreation and points of interest.

Shelters along the local walk way for dogwalkers to get out of the weather.

Places to rollerblade and skateboard other than on the roads.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Have (Symms) grants available.

Sell trail pins, buttons, jackets, shirts, caps, mugs, etc. to raise money for projects.

Ballfields are big in the summer, snowmobiling in the winter: they are fine as is, don't mess with them.

(Participants listed various activities that Nome residents and visitors do, with an eye toward encouraging these in the future: biking, hiking, berry picking, birding, boating, mushing, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, camping, dogwalking, cross country skiing, and gardening. People use their community parks, ice skating areas, and ball fields.)

KODIAK WORKSHOP (October 23, 1997): 6 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

IMPROVEMENTS:

(3) Pasagshak

- Need parking lot for rigs (get them off road).
- Move camping area across street or farther along (need to educate users).

(2) Trails on Native land

- Need conservation easements.
- Need signs to clarify ownership.

(1) Fort Abercrombie campground

- Need more tent sites (there is more demand than there are sites).
- Lower the fee for walk-ins.
- Need a leash sign.

(1) Shuyak/Big Bay cabins

- Maintain existing cabins.
- Have more trails.

(1) Cross-country ski trails at Jake Lake and Burma Road

- Improve.

(1) Island Lake bike trail

- Needs expansion.

Buskin

- Need more parking/signage.
- Need user education for better behavior and cleaning up fishing debris.
- Prevent bank erosion.

Fort Abercrombie trail

- Needs stabilization (increased use leads to erosion).
- Need bear awareness.
- Perhaps have a "dog day" for dog walkers in the park.

Near Island trail

- Need leash law compliance.

Near Island

- Monitor illegal camping.

Baranof Park

- Skate board area needs liability insurance fix.

Swimming pools	-City is planning replacement for safety upgrade.
Golf course	-Needs a back nine.
Ski chalet	-Need chairlift installed (has a short rope tow).
Horse riding	-Need more trails.
Gibson Cove (at Deadman's Curve)	-Good camping for cannery workers for \$2, with shower; no bear problem.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(4) The Borough should work with the State on tent camping at Termination Point/Monashka Bay (RVS are in the parking lot 1-2 nights).

(3) Legal public beach access (obtain with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill money) for Chiniak beaches.

(3) Mountain bike area on the old military road system (and have bike rentals available).

(3) Anton Larsen trail and Salenie Creek drainage trail connections and connections to private amenities (lodges, huts).

(2) Bike trails /loop.

(2) Long Island kayak destination.

(2) Boat launches at Monashka Bay, Pasagshak, and Anton Larsen.

(1) Manage the Woman's Bay area/Anton Pass trailhead to avoid ATV damage, fire and vandalism concerns, and manage the informal shooting range.

Connect the Anton Pass summer hiking trail with the winter trail.

Dock for young people to fish off at Near Island.

Legal public beach access to Old harbor beaches (use Exxon Valdez Oil Spill money to obtain).

Borough trail plan (cooperate with US Fish and Wildlife Service; identify what trails cross

Lesnoi land; deal with liability issues).

ATV area in the Three Sisters region (Alaska State Parks and the Borough should identify an existing area).

Pillar mountain trail system could be developed (access/ownership unclear).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Give a million dollars to Jerome! (the mayor).

Use private fund raising to get money.

Parks bond issue is ongoing (need to get parks into the discussion).

Other funding ideas: fun runs, events, raffles

The Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center has spotty hours, which are not good for tourists.

Create publicity about outdoor recreation needs/facilities; have better info for visitor centers and libraries: use Alaska Municipal League meeting, convention and visitor bureau brochures, visitor bureau scaled maps, links to visitor bureau web sites, central CD-ROM of information.

JUNEAU WORKSHOP (October 28, 1997): 19 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

IMPROVEMENTS:

(10) Public use cabins	-Need more (they are full 6 months in advance).
(8) Perseverance Trail (heavily used)	-Needs historic interpretive signs, brochures. -Needs maintenance, rails (is dangerous).
(6) Mount Roberts	-Needs historic interpretation. -Safety issue in upper section above tram: erosion, fog banks. -Re-route existing trail.
(5) Ball field	-Needs grass.
(4) Eagle Crest	-Needs improving. -Needs lighted cross country ski trails.
(3) Wickersham House	-Is nonfunctional as an educational facility.
(2) Gruening State historical Park	-Needs Alaska interpretive history. -Needs picnic area. -Needs trails.
(2) Eagle River campground	-Needs more development.
(2) Auke Lake	-Should be nonmotorized.
(2) Mendenhall Campground cross country ski tracks (set tracks are good)	-Need lights.
(2) 90+ trails in the area	-Need maintenance (roots exposed, need brushing*).
Trailheads (including Yankee Basin, Blackerby, Mt. Jumbo, Lemon Creek)	-Need plowing, marking, adequate parking.
Auke Bay	-Boat access is too crowded.
Alaska State Parks	-Need more funding for Juneau.

Mendenhall Lake/Auke recreation area	-Campground shortage; need more RV space.
Disabled access	-Need more, including signage for where the ADA trails are and campground rules.
Bike trails	-Have better connections/extensions with the schools; work with City/Borough Plan.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

- (7) Channel Islands State Marine Park.
- (6) More public use cabins (some saltwater accessible only, and other access).
- (6) Point Bridget snowmobiling area, or snowmobiling somewhere out the road (it's flat, there is snow; why not snowmobiling?; many existing areas are too steep).
- (5) ATV riding area: could be done by land exchange with Goldbelt.
- (5) More mountain bike trails; upgrade the Treadwell Ditch trail for bikes (needs gravel and bridges) and the Sheep Creek basin.
- (4) Developed ATV park (state managed, with user fees).
- (4) Foot-only/bicycle-in campground (like Portage Cove at Haines).
- (3) Interpretive centers (at Fish Creek and Sweitzer).
- (2) Make Twin Lakes deeper (enhances fish, reduces weeds).

Bridge across Eagle River.

Skating rink.

More boat ramps.

Running track.

Botanical garden, ADA accessible.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

There is not enough money.

Address length of stay in campgrounds; no "homesteading."

Provide firewood in campgrounds to protect from tree cutting.

Use Yukon's model of bear proof garbage cans.

Have a trail hotline, to identify where large groups are/guided hiking (large guided groups are a distraction; at what level and where should commercial trail use be?; do a survey to see if people avoid trails because of commercial use). Limit commercial trail use to certain trails.

Have a bill to indemnify private land owners regarding trails and use.

Bike trails are too crowded.

Have gas tax money go directly toward trail maintenance, and to Trail Mix group.

Campground hosts are good (litter is reduced just by them being there!).

If local bike trails are plowed, they can't be used by cross country skiers.

Have better recreation marketing; improve visitor opportunities-- need more information for independent and cruise ship travelers on what's available for them recreationally without a guide.

Manage helicopter and hiking areas for conflicts..

Have a recreation fund (city/borough trust/endowment) to address wish lists, with time specific sales tax increase; this will encourage more volunteers to maintain projects.

User fees should go to trail maintenance for snowmobile trails.

Have a head tax to raise money for recreation.

Have a bed tax to raise money for recreation.

Have outdoor gear stores donate a percentage of money to Trail mix.

Need noise level restrictions.

Get new legislators.

Have an RV entrance fee at the border to support recreation.

Raise cabin use fees a little bit.

SITKA WORKSHOP (October 29, 1997): 23 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(11) Mosquito Cove-circular trail

(10) Sea Lion Cove

(7) Nelson Logging Road (access to Forest Service area)

(6) Airport causeway

(5) Pioneer Home garden

(3) Katlian Ridge (alpine trail system)

(3) Boat launches

(3) Road bike path (Post Office to Whale Park, Peterson Street to Starrigavan)

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Need money for construction materials.
- Forest Service has rough-marked a route: construct and finish the route.
- Have Sitka Trail Works do the work.

- Need trail planking.
- Need a mooring buoy.
- Make it a state park.

- Need road improvement.
- Need walking path from Halibut Point Road to fish viewing site.
- Need money/political support.
- Need caretaker/volunteer help.
- Need restrooms.

- Need money to develop.
- Need overland access.
- Need a dock.
- Coordinate with FAA and DOT/PF.

- Needs support and support money.

- Need public use cabins (hut-to-hut)

- Need one in town (at Thompson Harbor).*
- Need lighting, water to wash down boats, and winter maintenance at Starrigavan.
- Fix ramp holes, have lights, have short-term docking at city docks.

- Too many dead ends (tie in through the

	city bike plan).
(3) Starrigavan campground	-Have a fishing pier for the disabled. -Expand the campground. -Need better artesian well access.
(2) Shooting range	-Needs upgrading (get \$ from Wildlife Division?).
(2) Skateboard park	-Is too small.
(2) Castle Hill	-Add summer interpretive programs (use volunteers and interns).
(1) Blue Lake Road	-Do not plow all of it (so it can be used as a cross-country ski route).
(1) Mud Bay to Shelikof old logging road	-Good for 4-wheeler use.
(1) Mosquito Cove	-Need public use cabin.
(1) Magoun Marine Park	-Need public use cabin.
Harbor Mountain	-Resolve snowmobiler/4-wheeler conflict (4-wheelers rough up the road).
Public use cabins	-Need more that are road/trail accessible.
Mt. Edgecumbe	-Keep expanding/improving trail system.
Softball complex	-Need more playing areas and land lease from Dept. of Education.
Lower Moller (football) field	-Needs better surface (is too soft).

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(7) Trail connections: Heart Lake to Thimbleberry to Indian River to Gavan Trail, and to Starrigavan.

(6) Long-range coastal hiking trail: Kruzof Island (cross-island exists with old logging roads), and Mud Bay to southwest to Cape Edgecumbe (much of this exists).

(6) Connections between Green Lake Road, Silver Bay, Salmon Lake, north side of Redoubt to Goddard to outer coast to Seven Fathom Bay (and tie into connections to other areas).

(5) “Close in” mountain bike trails (keep in mind urban access and multiple use as these are developed).

(3) An alpine trail system (some planning has been done).

(3) Cross-country ski trails.

(2) Urban trails access.

(2) Football field.

(1) Trail to Baranof Hot Springs.

(1) Trail from Beaver Lake to Bear Mountain.

(1) More road system hiking trails (Sitka Trail Works is leading the charge for this).

(1) Trail from the National Park totem park to Indian River.

(1) A “foot-only” in-town campground (like in Haines; summer employees welcome to use it).

(1) Connection to the hatchery past mid Medvegie Lake, with boat access.

(1) In-line skateboard park.

Japonski Island Trail.

Launch place for small boats/kayaks at Herring Cove (after clean-up).

Emergency trail shelters on trail systems.

Picnic tables behind the car wash on Eagle Lane (keep in mind this is a log haulout for firewood).

Picnic tables and trash barrels at seaplane turnaround.

A park just across the bridge, on west side (land ownership unclear).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(7) Need a city parks/recreation person (to deal with grants, TRAAK, DOT/PF, and coordinate with other agencies).

(6) Need a 12-month state park ranger as soon as possible.

Maintain what we have before building more.

Need trail easements across land ownerships.

Need money for maintenance.

Need maintenance plans in place at time of construction.

Need a comprehensive trails plan involving applicable agencies: get city on board with trails, get trails into city planning and have review for trails, Sitka Trail Works should look beyond Senator Stevens).

Design for shared trails (with multiple use of existing trails).

KETCHIKAN WORKSHOP (October 30, 1997): 24 participants (includes 1 write-in)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

- (9) Ward Lake Road
- (7) Bike paths
- (5) Lunch Creek Trail (part of Trails Ketchikan project)
- (5) Kayak/small boat launches
- (4) Trails for seniors/disabled
- (3) Totem Bight
- (3) Off-road system
- (2) Misty Fjords
- (2) Settler's Cove
- (1) Snowmobile trail system in alpine area
- (1) South Tongass Highway
- (1) Ferry service

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Keep it plowed to Harriet Hunt Lake for winter access for recreation for snowshoe, cross country ski, snowmobile use.
- Extend beyond Saxman.*****
- Extend north (widen shoulder).
- Extend it to state park land.***
- Extend it up creek (university land).
- Need beach access.
- Need better launch area south of town (park at hatchery? Beaver Falls has too little/minimal parking).
- Need more.
- Improve beach picnic area.***
- Have better relation of totems to trail/better interpretive materials.
- Plan for dealing with overcrowding.
- More trails.*
- Need water taxis.**
- Need trails.*
- More mooring buoys.*
- Need leveled tent sites.
- Need more tent sites (sites across the river are quiet).
- Need it.
- Change speed limit/slow down in 4-mile stretch south of Herring Cove for bikers/walkers.
- Improve it between Ketchikan and Prince

	of Wales.
(1) Signal Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Make it resident friendly. -Too full in summer. -Keep open year round (use iron rangers). -Good for group camping use in shoulder seasons.
Boat launches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solve parking impacts at Settler's Cove. -Expand/add parking at Knudsen Cove.
Local harbor areas	-Development impacts/conflicts with sailing club training/use.
80 acre aquarium site state park	- Would provide beach access.
Public use cabins	-New reservation system discriminates against local residents (access is expensive, Forest Service fees are going up).
Black Sands beach	-Need new outhouse.
Fish Creek cabin trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needs tread work. -Trail hard to find. -Need boardwalks across muskeg. -Need trail system.
Ballfields	Could use more of them.
Disabled facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Need better parking lots at local parks/downtown park. -Need a road accessible cabin. -More beach access at Guard beach.
Rotary Beach	-Need better/more parking.
Selected trails	-Have more interpretive signs.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(7) Trails Ketchikan. (8 trails proposed).

(7) Marine parks with mooring buoys,*** tent platforms, primitive outhouses, primitive skiff pull-out.

(6) Expansion of kayak trails in British Columbia to Southeast.

(6) Shelters and tent platforms (rather than new public use cabins)****; tent platforms that are skiff accessible.**

(5) Gravina Island trail system.

(4) Cleared logging roads (and look at developing those with recreation potential).

(4) Harriet Hunt to Naha trail connection.

(3) Hands-on nature center with tide pools, touch/feel center, different plant types.

(2) Raptor center.

(2) Walk-in campgrounds.

(1) South Cleveland Peninsula trail system.

(1) New public use cabins on the road and ones you can hike and kayak to.

(1) Underwater diving at Mt. Point Marine Park (improve access and resolve conflicts).

(1) Boat access at beaches on Pup and Betton islands, and at Kashakes.

(1) More trails on Prince of Wales Island.

(1) Golf course in Ketchikan, and perhaps on Prince of Wales.

(1) Ketchikan Trails Plan (cover action items and day shelters).

Better roadside pedestrian lighting (be aware of light pollution).

More trails south of town.

RV parks.

More roaded recreational opportunities, specifically the long-awaited road connection/link from Harriet Hunt Lake Road to Shelter Cove logging roads, which connect to other logging roads on Revilla Island (there has been a committee working on this). Exact route near Leask Lakes is a stumbling block -some involves Mental Health land and environmentally sensitive

land (much of this is near the back of Misty Fjords and will provide many more options to getting into the wilderness).

Develop Leask Lakes recreation access (land around lakes was proposed as a state park; land ownership is confusing).

Safe site for Ketchikan Sailing Club to teach sailing skills to adults/youth: readily accessible from existing road system, site where there is wind all day, out of main boating lanes, possibly near islands to explore; need about an acre on the water, have a 24'x50' maintenance shed, warm up room, bathrooms, parking for up to 30 vehicles, nearby boat launch ramp (need ramp and floating dock for skiff storage/launching, that could be 20'x80').

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- (4) Have an outdoor recreation master plan for Southeast.
- (2) Identify land for future public recreation (put it in the "bank").
- (1) Get access information to the public, and to people in other parts of the state.

SEAVIC fee turns summer people away.

Have more trip planning information for the public.

Land ownership and easements across are an issue, as are Mental Health and University of Alaska lands.

Need more work on balancing commercial and non commercial uses.

Need more value on muskeg areas.

There is a major lack of money for recreation and lack of agencies to help Ketchikan get grants.

The Borough needs to do outdoor recreation planning (including commercial use).

SEWARD WORKSHOP (November 3, 1997): 13 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

- (3) Manitoba Mountain
- (3) Mt. Alice Trail
- (2) Marine parks
- (2) Fish weir at Bear Lake
- (2) South Beach (4th of July Beach)
- (2) Exit Glacier area
- (2) Caine's Head (Lowell Point to Tonsina trail)
- (2) Caine's Head (North Beach)
- (1) Summer crowds/campers/squatters

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Have the State relinquish the selection on the upper mountain to the US Forest Service.
- Need motorized closure (it's not a good motorized area, keep as ski area) .
- Keep it a "secret" trail, do not heavily sign or advertise.
- Have more mooring buoys.*
- Develop sea lion viewing.
- Develop viewing area/boardwalk.
- Restrict vehicle access (party-ers are trashing, rye grass is being destroyed).
- Need riprap.
- Need monitoring (also monitor transients).
- Prohibit fires (logs are being burned).
- Change status to a park for protection.
- Have winter use for everyone (more grooming/maintenance needed for a snowmobile trail- monitor, have speed limits to address the safety issue).
- Develop better access than just at low tide.
- Move trailhead to dedicated land.
- Have better signage.
- Fix 2nd (south) creek bridge.
- Expand the trail system/add new trails.
- Need info on land status.
- Need boat access (such as a floating dock).
- Build cannery worker bunkhouse.
- Provide enforcement.

	-Have more private campgrounds (no net loss for recreational camping).
(1) Crown Point mining road	-Have easier access. -More signs/public education needed.
(1) Vagt Lake trail	-Need clean-up/maintenance. -Make it a state park. -Need legal access with AK Railroad for boat access.
(1) Playgrounds	-Need more pocket parks.* -Need more equipment and space.
(1) Harding Ice Field hike	-Want to be able to take dogs on it.
(1) Two Lakes Park trail	-Should be wholly city-owned (private landowner inholdings not willing to sell; want Land&Water Fund money to obtain top parts of lots).
(1) Iditarod Trail (skiing from Bear Lake to Nash Road)	-Need legal basis for trailhead. -Monitor/have someone manage trailhead, or self-manage with bigger rocks to keep vehicles off).
Mount Marathon	-Improve race trail access for visitors (have signage at 1st and Monroe streets).
Miller's Landing	-Clarify or have public access for trailered boats. - Have more parking.
Lowell Point	-Need access clarification (what is State Parks view on vacating, regarding public platted adjacent right-of-way in Martin subdivision).
Bear Lake Road (rock ridge on north edge of Woodrow plat)	-Resolve ownership and manage area..
ATVs/snowmobiles on roads/railroad tracks	-Need funding and differentiation for access/monitoring. -Have snowmobile patrols (there is no

trooper response outside city limits).

Caine's Head

-Have more public use cabins.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(7) End of airport: have a short boardwalk starting at railroad dock for cruise ship passengers and for birdwatching.

(4) Waterfront Park (gravel belt/green belt): establish eagle trees/more trees.

(4) Trail along Seward Highway for summer/winter use (need DOT/PF bike trails for multi-use, including ATVs and snowmobiles).

(2) In general, close larger areas (such as drainages) for quiet recreation (have these areas away from the road, with appropriate access points).

(2) Bike trail from Bubba's across three bridges (Mile 1.5), along the road and railroad tracks.

(2) Groomed trails: Mile 12 to Lost Lake (primarily for winter use) and to Harding Icefield (starting at Powell Point or up Exit Glacier Road area).

(1) Bear Lake boat launch (restrict the north loon and migratory area as necessary).

Nash Road birdwatching area/boardwalk.

Mount Marathon tram.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(2) More money for State Parks.

Need a state park ranger.

Need a memorandum of understanding for South Beach.

Need money for monitoring/enforcement.

US Forest Service trails: keep some "primitive" for diversity.

Need balanced management for good access.

Use concessions to run facilities.

Have gas tax and registration tax dedicated to trails.

We want federal money back.

Lower the Land and Water Conservation Fund administrative fee (it is too high) and dedicate it to the state.

Have more citizen STIP input through the TRAAK Board.

KENAI/SOLDOTNA WORKSHOP (November 5, 1997): 11 participants (includes 1 call-in)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(5) Fishing access

(5) Ski trails (general)

(4) Kasilof River boat launch

(3) Unity Trail (Kenai/Soldotna hiker/
bike trail)

(2) Softball and soccer fields

(2) Golf courses

(2) Covered pavilion picnic areas

(1) Clam Gulch Wayside beach access

(1) Boat launches

(1) Clam Gulch/Kasilof/other small, highway
communities

Tsalteshi Trail

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Need more sites for the disabled.
- Need good access.
- Need river access.
- Need winter access to lakes.

- Need more in Kenai, Nikiski, Sterling.
- Need lights.
- Need location and etiquette signs.

- State site too small-enlarge it.
- Private take-out is too expensive.
- Need public take-out at the flats
area/below Crooked Creek.

- Build it sooner.

- Need more in Nikiski, Kenai/Soldotna.

- Need more (can be cross country ski
places in winter).

- Need more in urban areas.

- Needs major rehabilitation/is impassible:
needs 2 lanes with walkway.

- Need more at beaches.

- Need more roadside pathways for hiking,
bicycling.

- Hook into Refuge and Soldotna city trails.
- Have a K-Beach Road underpass.
- Have access from Kasilof to Robinson
store at existing rights of way.
- Need a big groomer.
- Need fencing for wildlife.

Caribou Hills trail system	-Needs signs. -Need easement at Clam Gulch across university land for snowmobiling.
Kenai River	-Need access at Funny River Road. -(Note as a cross reference from Anchorage workshop: "no motors on the Kenai River" received 5 dots).
South side of mouth of Kenai River	-Need restrooms. -Need dedicated access. -Need parking.
Ninilchik	-Needs community gathering area not associated with fishing.
Soldotna bridge	-Needs bike/pedestrian addition.
Lake Clark National park	-Make Kenai the headquarters.
Longmere Lake	-Too many uses in a small area-need to control/manage them.
Campgrounds (general)	-Far too crowded during red salmon time (triple the number of sites would not be enough).
Kenai River Flats	-Improve wildlife viewing-boardwalks.
Wildlife viewing (general)	-Improve at mouths of Anchor River and Deep Creek and landfill.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(5) Designated swimming beaches at Island, Longmere, Sport, Centennial, and Scout lakes, with rest rooms, beach sand, and parking.

(3) Statewide connected trail system.

(2) Hope to Homer trail.

(2) Skateboard park in Kenai/Soldotna area.

(1) Trail systems with cabins (inn to inn, hut to hut, 3-sided shelters okay).

(1) Covered outdoor court sports area.

Need a 3-sided, sheltered outdoor ice rink in Kenai.

Downhill ski area at Cooper Lake or Summit.

Longer trails.

Remote cabins at Tustumena Lake.

Cabins and camping areas on the west side of the inlet (what do you do to manage garbage and rest rooms?).

Sterling to Soldotna bike path.

K-Beach bike Path from bridge to Poppy Lane.

Need more trail groomers.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alternatives to asphalt and the runoff that results are needed at river access.

Manage user conflicts on lakes and on winter trails (separate uses?).

Resolve who owns/manages lakes, for managing access and use. Lake recreation needs expanded access.

Trail land ownership and liability are issues (traditional use is not always on public land).

When subdividing or vacating easements/section lines, there should be an incentive to property owners to maintain any trails.

Resolve traditional access through university lands.

Are there bear areas where we should NOT put facilities?

Investigate winter lights (Scandinavia has solar/winter lighting).

Need more information about accessible opportunities. Make ADA/disabled facilities more friendly; better enforce them (for example, you can't stand in front of an ADA fishing site without being fined).

ATV use for local access at Clam Gulch should be considered.

Manage snowmobiles and ATVs that are on nonmotorized trails.

Have communities work on trails.

Have a liability pool for groups for outdoor activities and events.

VALDEZ WORKSHOP (November 10, 1997): 4 participants (includes 1 write-in)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(3) Richardson Highway bike trail

(3) Robe Lake

(1) Dock Point Trail (and family and picnic use)
(Note: there is heavy year-round use; we love Dock Point!)

(1) All-American Trail (formerly Goat Trail)

(1) Trails in general

(1) Shoup Trail

Mineral Creek trails

Blue Lake campground to Mile 19 trail

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Extend to Keystone Canyon/Old Richardson Highway.
-Be sure it is maintained.

-Separate conflicting uses and manage/protect habitat (ex. DOT/PF floatplane base, jetski, bird conflict).
-Family beach potential is being lost.
-State needs to manage it.

-Need benches/overlook seating.
-Restroom requested.
-Signage grant in place to do signs.

-15 miles exist, with a 3/4 mile stretch identified with potential to be a world class trail.
-Resurface Bear Creek bridge (need TRAAK funds).
-Need portable foot bridge at Snowshoe Gulch.
-If use increases, need bridge at Sheep Creek.

-Need maps/signage.
-Need fill/pathwork (use Xmas tree chippings).

-Continue developing as planned (signage, 4-wheeler control).

-East Creek Dike needs D1 gravel (or tree chips would be nice).
-For ORV riding, make riders aware it's there/make it conducive for use.

-Have State Historic Preservation office look at Wortman's area for historic interest.

Old Town to Valdez Glacier lake trail	-Work with city/state on access.
Hogback trail	-City intent is to keep it as a winter trail (not conducive to 4-wheel in summer).
Alison Point	-Fish cleaning table would be nice (but no water and tides are limiting factors). -Watch road safety aspect for vehicles and pedestrians (DOT/PF improvements will eventually help).
Solomon Gulch Trail	-Stairs coming out are a liability. -Continue overlook/signage that is in progress.
1 ½ Mile Park (Robe River mouth)	-Look at possible long-term development (fine now for “au natural” experience, but it is a remote area that will need time to develop).
Harbor	-ADA parking spaces are not well thought out-need widening. -Need walking access/sidewalks. -Need ADA mechanical lift at tour dock. -Snow dumping is damaging boardwalk. -Need more fish cleaning facilities. -Need better sewage dumping facilities.
Campgrounds	-Need a mix of RV and “primitive” experiences.
Airstrip at Thompson Pass	-ATCO trailer is a summer eyesore.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

- (2) New restroom facilities on trails and on Richardson Highway.
- (1) Need quiet areas for quiet sports (zoning for skiing, for example).
- (1) Need kayak launching area near mouth of Mineral Creek (Exxon Valdez Oil Spill project?).
- (1) Public education/etiquette about leaving archeological items in place is necessary.

Other public education needs include trash/toilet paper pick-up, and educating small businesses about ADA.

Bike rentals opportunities are needed.

Ice skating rink.

Skateboard park.

Continue the All-American Trail from Thompson Pass to Copper Center, with a mid link to Marshall.

Have planned winter restrooms and parking at Thompson Pass (most use in oriented to summer).

A series of cabins or even minimally improved camp sites (gravel pads and a hanging bar similar to the system at Decision Point) between Valdez and Whittier would be very popular.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Need more money.

Need a Valdez ranger.

Need ORV management: public education/self control/self policing; control area damage; local ordinances only apply for winter use.

Close areas until there is sufficient snow for snowmobiles.

Canneries should continue doing a better job for transients.

Maintain what we have before creating too many new things.

Use volunteers where there can be volunteer opportunities.

Valdez Trail Association has a fund raising trails booklet in progress.

Pursue liability statute changes.

Build projects only if maintenance is included.

Have paper/plastic "distributors" (such as restaurants and delis) put a clean-up label on products.

Convince or get new legislators who aren't helpful; keep good legislators.

Have a \$1 cigarette tax to keep people from smoking/littering.

Have a tax or bottle bill for trash reduction incentive.

Have more balance between Valdez and Kenai, for support of management of recreational opportunities (Kenai gets lots of support). Could have a Web page and publicity, using volunteer webpage creators ("adopt-a-page").

Quiet should be preserved in state parks and forests.

Personal motorized vehicles should have noise restrictions - mufflers, etc. and should have highly visible vehicle identification numbers so that violators can be identified and reported.

Tour boats should also have noise suppression standards and should stay away from shore to reduce noise and visual pollution and to reduce wake effects.

CORDOVA WORKSHOP (November 13, 1997): 4 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(3) Skater cabin (on Eyak Lake)

(2) Odiak Pond/Hollis Hendriks Park/
Bering River Railroad Park

Boat anchorages

Cabin Lake campground

5 tent sites at the Million Dollar Bridge

Shelter Cove (across from ferry dock, has
transient camping, gazebo, fish cleaning)

Sheridan Glacier Trail (connects to McKinley
Lake) and Hartney Lake to Eyak River trail

Marine parks

Tennis courts

Bike trails

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Coordinate with the city to upgrade
facilities (parking, rest rooms, bike trail).
-Add a public boat launch for Eyak Lake
at this location.*

-Tie these 3 together.
- Keep Odiak Pond a pond.
-Tie an Odiak boardwalk to Bering Park
(make it ADA accessible for seniors,
wheelchairs, the hospital--boardwalk would
be a good thing**).

-Zone them for noncommercial use/remote
use.

-A logged area; not used much--could be
used.

-Need more sites for bigger vehicles.

-Have state parks plug into this.

-Connect these trails.

-Close to hunting (for safety reasons).
-Do not develop, but have some mooring
buoys.

-Fix cracking/warping surfaces.

-Manage in-line skating on them.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(3) New campgrounds both in and out of town (for example, the city lot campground in

summer has no room for visitors...need more areas for noncommercial fishers and families).

(3) Bike trail from the Copper River Highway to Mile 5.5.

(2) Whitshed Road and Power Creek Road need a bike trail to Hartney Bay and more bike trail along them (or shoulders for riding).

Skate board park or teen park.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Have a TRAACK Board representative specifically for Prince William Sound.

Tie in the Department of Transportation/Public Facilities and other agencies to mesh projects (for example, when a telephone company lays a cable along a road, coordinate DOT/PF putting in a bike trail).

Floathouses are displacing local users and mariculture...have better coordination and communication between upland and water jurisdictions (for example, have mini plans).

Have a process to identify and reclaim abandoned trails.

Maintain existing trails before working on new trails.

Sweep and clear paved road shoulders.

Build in maintenance for projects.

Manage off-road traffic (there is muskeg destruction); manage with self policing/self managing/user education.

Spend money for places closer in that have closer access for more users.

Consider negative impacts of hunting from trails, and consider this when building trails.

Have agencies look at a variety of cabin, platform, and site opportunities for recreation.

DELTA JUNCTION WORKSHOP (November 17, 1997): 19 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(11) Trails to Tok, Glennallen, Paxson, Fairbanks

(10) Quartz Lake access road

(7) Delta bike path

(5) Existing turnouts (such as Gerstle)

(4) Telegraph line (WAMCATS) to Valdez

(3) Clearwater Lake landing

(2) George Lake

(2) Fielding Lake parking

(1) Coal Mine road

(1) Clearwater River

(1) Trail systems next to Forestry

(1) Healy Lake winter trail

Coal Mine road (and other local trails)

Haines to Fairbanks gas line

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Create, improve, connect for snowmobiling, dog mushing, biking.

-Make it a public right of way.*****

-Upgrade, improve.

-Do not have locals pay to use it.

-Have an access fee.

-Extend to Clearwater.

-Extend to Ft. Greeley.**

-Plow them.

-Improve as a trail.

- Someone should manage and rework (needs a bridge for the trail).

-Needs an improved launch pad.

-Needs better winter plowing.

-Make a bigger parking pad.

-Leave it alone.

-Needs a second boat landing.

-Identify who owns the land (most of it is on state land).

-Get an easement.

-Needs development.

-Re-open it.

-Identify, dedicate, and sign them.

-Improve as a trail.

Rika's Roadhouse

-Stop the bank erosion.

Fielding to Paxson

-Need more snowmobile trailheads.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(7) Pulloffs and toilets on the Richardson Highway south of Paxson; and plow them in winter.

(6) Winter trail-friendly bridges at the Robertson and Johnson rivers.

(3) Hut-to-hut facilities on the WAMCATS trail.

(1) Copper River Trail.

A third launch at Quartz Lake (the existing launches are full on holidays).

Toilets at the Summit Lake Glory Hole area.

Hut-to-hut facilities on other trails.

Survival stashes on winter trails.

Outdoor hockey facility.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(5) No shoulders on the highway makes it unsafe for summer bicycle riding.

(3) Maintain the highway for the Tok to Dawson snowmobile run.

(2) How to get easements for trails on private land is an issue.

(1) Educate trail users about trail use etiquette (such as when using trapper trails).

(1) We have great rangers! Helpful and friendly!

(1) Harding, Birch, and Quartz lakes have conflicts between fishing and other user (such as jetskis and power boats).

(1) Emphasize Quartz Lake for fishing; emphasize Harding and Birch for water sports.

Quartz Lake access fees are an issue.

Snowmobiles on bike trails are an issue.

Quartz Lake Road use by recreators conflicts with large commercial vehicles (such as log trucks and fuel trucks).

FAIRBANKS WORKSHOP (November 18, 1997): 50 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(17) Trail system

(6) Summit Lake

(4) Farmers Loop trail

(4) Tanana River access

(4) White Mountains Trail

(2) Chena River State Recreation Area

(2) Bonnefield Trail

(1) Chena River State Recreation Site

Small tracts

Hockey rinks

Tennis courts

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Expand (existing is too congested).

-Expand parking area.

-Need toilet facilities.

-Need toilet at Bonanza Creek.

-Chena Pump, South Cushman, Peger Road
(improve trail to river).

-Underutilized.

-Expand snowmobile parking at all sites.*

-Expand and brush winter trails.*

-Needs brushing.

-Resolve conflicts with Wainwright.

-Open earlier, close later.

-Maintain access.

-Need better maintenance.

-Fix them up.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(7) Snowmobile race area that could double as a kids' area and as ballfields in summer.

(7) Nature trails around communities and neighborhoods.

(6) Separated trails along roads to outlying areas.

(6) Single use trails.

(4) A flat beginning Nordic ski area.

- (4) Tennis courts.
- (3) Hot dogging area for young people (needs trail access because young ones cannot drive cars), with an education component.
- (3) Gravel pit for swimming close to town.
- (2) Neighborhood soccer trails (especially on the west side).
- (2) Four-wheeler trails.
- (2) Trail from Clear to Wood River.
- (1) More hockey rinks.
- (1) Dog field trial facility (needs to be clean; identify area).
- (1) Riley Creek/Nenana boat launch.
- (1) Public access for lower run on Willow Creek.
- (1) Snowmobile riding area (for young people) at Creamer's Field, for example.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- (15) Educate people on trail etiquette (both water and land trails): how to act with animals, education about staying on trails, establish corridors for people. Use Symms funding for this.
- (13) Solve trail conflicts close to town first (most conflicts are close to town); develop rules of the road.
- (11) Dedicate trails.
- (10) RS 2477s: defend these trails as rights; if use was for a trail, keep it a trail.*
- (5) Liability indemnification (request public money/info from local government).
- (5) Standardize signs as to trail difficulty/skill level; this helps with management.
- (4) Do trail research before land disposals take place.
- (3) Build nonmotorized trails narrow to deter motorized users from using them.

- (3) Have broad access with the fewest restrictions for trails and other facilities.
- (2) Adjudicate the RS 2477 speed limit.
- (2) Motorized/nonmotorized conflicts on multi-use trails need looking at.
- (2) Have point of sale fee on all recreational trail items (bikes, boots, etc.).
- (2) Enforce rules (snowmobile clubs regulate each other).
- (2) Use of trails for commercial use should include education/experience requirements for commercial operators.
- (2) Open up riding areas for motorized use.
- (2) Have snowmobile insurance for renters.
- (2) Do something on the ground.
- (1) Share grooming equipment among groups/agencies.
- (1) Make a trail network.
- (1) Government should talk more to locals and listen to local advisory boards.
- (1) Land managers should think beyond their jurisdiction boundaries.
- (1) Trails on maps are often in the wrong place. Fix maps.

Have a minimum age for riding snowmobiles.

Review general state land trail building rights.

Use the adopt-a-trail method for maintaining trails.

Have registration money go for trails.

Protect undeveloped areas in urban area (such as south of Big Dipper--neighborhood black spruce park).

GLENNALLEN WORKSHOP (November 24, 1997): 25 participants (includes 2 write-ins)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(13) Gulkana Wayside

(11) Highway pullouts

(9) Tolsona Snowmobile Trail (Glennallen-Lake Louise-Gakona-Tok)

(6) Trails (winter)

(4) Trailheads (winter)

(3) Worthington Glacier

(1) Copper Basin 300 Mile Trail (mushing)

(1) Tennis court/little league field

(1) Eagle Trail

Squirrel Creek Campground

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Give the land back to Gulkana.
- No Tract G campground.
- Need to control waste in the water.
- Need road safety controls even if use is on the other side of the road.

- Have trash barrels and restrooms.

- Need money for groomers and groomer time.

- Widen them.
- Have snowmobile crossing signs on highway.
- Need signage.
- Need maps made by the state.

- Need money to clear parking lots.****
- Need more parking.
- Need power to plug in vehicles.

- Fix deplorable restrooms/dumpsters.*
- Fix the road.

- Need signage/map.
- Need parking (people use the lodge lots).

- Is in disrepair; could us money to maintain and connect it to bike path or trails for better access.

Keep improving/maintaining.

- Add sand for a "beach."
- Remove the boulder on the 30' road to the water.
- Have signage for swimmers telling distance to the island and of dropoff.

Paxson boat launch

-Improve for better use.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(16) Glennallen bike trail (sidewalk trail) from library to visitor center; have restroom, signs, benches, skateboarding. This would be along the Glenn Highway. We need a walkway like this for keeping people off the highway.

(4) More campgrounds with facilities.

(3) Highway pullouts/facilities at 100-mile road intervals, with maintenance.

(2) Boat launches at Summit, Slana River/Mile 77,* and Nabesna River bridge.

Trail along the Nabesna Road that would get traffic off the main Nabesna Road. There is increasing tourist (hikers and bikers) and local Slana use, and the traffic is becoming a problem. The area that is particularly bad is from the junction of the Tok Cutoff and Mile 4 (year-round 3 and 4-wheelers, snowmobiles, bicycles, walkers, and occasional dog teams). Road ditch design and Slana River crossing leave no good way to get off the highway. There is a cleared right of way area and culvert along the Hart D Ranch property for off-road traffic for easier access to the post office and telephone. This trail should be continued.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(14) User fees should go directly to maintenance of facilities.

(2) Apply snowmobile registration fees to snowmobile uses.

Be able to use grant money more flexibly (such as for things like maintenance and operation of equipment used in the project).

Have less governmental regulation of traditional trails and of what is already legally designated.

Have a bigger vision for road development - provide more restroom facilities, for example.

State parks should be clearer about fees and private manager rules; fees should be consistent among and within parks.

There is confusion on how to apply for grants - need easier ways to find out and apply.

DOT/PF should be more communicative about projects, STIP process, politics (for example,

we need to know that they have to draw up something as an alternative, even if the public said no to it; higher-ups often do not tell lower-level workers about politics and it's the lower level who tend to talk to the public).

TOK WORKSHOP (November 25, 1997): 0 participants (0 write-ins)

(there were no participants at this workshop)

HOMER WORKSHOP (December 2, 1997): 11 participants

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(6) Banks School trail

(4) Caribou Hills trails

(2) Anchor Point

(2) Ski Club trails

(2) Hockey rink (of sorts!)

(2) Ninilchik River State Park

(1) Halibut Cove Dock

(1) Halibut Cove public dock

(1) Homer Townsite Commuter Trails
Development

Community schools

Ninilchik (150 miles of groomed trails)

Soccer/softball fields (and gymnasiums).

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Need boardwalks.

-Need right of way.

-Need trailhead parking.

-Need a town to park trail.

-Rebuild the gravel pit for parking.*

-Connect and have a way to get to the beach.

-Expand Baycrest parking lot for 50 cars.

-Need parking and toilets at Lookout/Olsen Mountain.

-Need parking and toilets at McNeil/Canyon School.

-Need an outdoor rink and indoor community center.

-Open access through the park.

-Flag and clear the public right of way.

-Move this to park land.

-Create pocket parks and neighborhood trails system for Fairview and Lee avenues park and trail system.

-Use and support the community schools as an outdoor recreation provider.

-Need right of way.

-Need groomer.

-Need parking/toilets.

-Need more.

Baycrest View sidewalk	-Connect this to Homestead Trail via Sterling Loop Road (Rogers Loop).
Rifle range (Anchor Point)	-Improve, dedicate, manage.
Rocky River Road	-Needs bridges and clearing.
State parks	-Need ADA fishing access.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(6) A separated bike path (at East End and Kachemak Drive); when the road is expanded, make the bike paths 100'-300' away.

(3) An Anchor Point to Homer trail with a public use cabin at half way (this is mostly public land already).

(3) Beach access/a trail to the beach at Cottonwood-Eastland.

(2) Rogers Loop Trail to Baycrest connection.

(2) Dedicate and include bridges for the Homer Electric Association power line.

(1) Public beach access between Miller's Landing and Fritz Creek.

(1) Parking lots and toilets for snowmobiling at Falls Creek, Clam Gulch, Trail 126, and North Bar trailheads.

(1) On the North Fork Road (Anchor Point), need a crossing across the Anchor River (the trail exists).

(1) Connect the three Ski Club trail systems: Baycrest to Lookout Mtn. to MacNeil Canyon.

(1) Anchor Point Critical Habitat Area needs access.

(1) Homer needs beautiful campgrounds.

(1) A campground between Homer and Anchor Point (for example, at Diamond Creek).

A walking path through Ninilchik to the beach.

Connect West Hill Road to a new campground off the Sterling Highway.

Connect Diamond Creek Trail to the Sterling Highway to West Hill Road.

Biathlon range.

Recreation area (sledding, ice rink) at the Top of the Hill landfill.

Campsites at trailheads on the highway.

Beach access in general needs parking.

Bluff trail/ski trail from Troublesome Creek to the Old Seward highway.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(4) Need trail dedication and rights of ways.

(3) Need point of sale registration.

(2) Need money for right of way acquisition.

(1) Make Caribou Hills a state recreation area (this will help with planning).

(1) Maintenance of facilities is important.

Have a way to watch when section lines are vacated (so trails and access are not lost).

Dedicate rights of ways when subdivisions are platted.

Need better signage about existing beach access.

Get teenagers/young people involved in planning and identifying recreational needs for the future.

Use bike paths as snowmobile trails.

Have money/funds for volunteer clubs to get new and better equipment.

Do ADA assessments.

Have a simple way to obtain surplus state equipment.

ANCHORAGE WORKSHOP (December 4, 1997): 48 participants (1 write-in)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(4) Local facilities (toilets, tables)

(1) Jasper Trail parking lot

Trail system

Rabbit Creek

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Maintain.

-Groom trail for snowmobiles to use motocross track.

-Keep it realistic.

-Extend trail to creek.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(10) Roadside restrooms.

(9) Hut-to-hut yurts and cabins.

(7) More public use cabins/yurts.

(7) Lake or basin to test motorized watercraft (lake on military base, basins along Dimond frontage road.

(6) More accessible trails for kids and the disabled.

(3) Connect to the Trans-Canada trail.

(3) More soccer fields.

(3) More tent camping.

(1) Increase access for small, noncommercial aircraft on public lands.

(1) More small campgrounds.

(1) More playgrounds.

(1) More ice rinks.

(1) Sand Lake boat launch access.

More softball fields.

More campgrounds not tied to fishing holes.

Showers in campgrounds.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(17) Allow snowmobiles in wilderness zones.

(11) Differentiate snowmobiles from other motorized .

(10) Have better access to wilderness areas.

(9) Maintain and do more with what we have before doing more.

(8) Solve recreation liability problem.

(8) Have a better balance between motorized and quiet sports.

(7) Reduce the lack of maps showing land ownership.

(7) Enforce regulations.

(7) Do not turn the state over to tourists.

(6) Have equal restrictions for both motorized and nonmotorized areas.

(5) No motors on the Kenai River.

(5) Give considerations to neighborhoods when siting trail heads (both urban and rural).

(5) Have trail-free areas.

(4) Do environmental studies before building trails.

(4) There is non-snowmobile off-road vehicle damage to the Talkeetnas off the trail.

(3) Regulate the growing high-volume commercial aircraft activities on public lands.

(3) Where multi-use trails used to exist, but are now single use, change back to multi-use.

(3) Ask the question: should we develop a trail?

(2) Power boat limits should be speed, not horsepower.

(2) Users should pay (gas tax, fees; look at Ohio system).

(2) Watch how more people affect multi-use trails.

(1) Exempt infrequent, small, noncommercial aircraft use from present and future restrictions involving overflights and wilderness landings (gravel bars and lakes).

(1) State agencies (especially Parks) should recognize the importance of winter/snowmobiles .

(1) Recreation brochures need winter photos.

(1) Emphasize motorized uses in State Parks.

(1) Have larger signs.

(1) Have a maintenance plan in place before granting Land and Water Conservation Fund money for sports fields (give a higher score for including a maintenance plan)).

Parks are for Alaskan residents.

Motorized and nonmotorized conflicts focus in the front country.

Have more recreation information on the Web.

Have concessionaires run recreation facilities.

Natural quiet is an essential resource and should receive separate treatment in planning documents (including its values/benefits, difficulty of finding it on state lands, and methods to protect and restore natural quiet to public lands), as do other valuable resources (write-in comment).

WASILLA WORKSHOP (December 1, 1997): 32 participants (includes 3 write-ins)

EXISTING FACILITIES:

(8) Big Lake/Nancy Lake

(7) Big Lake trailhead

(6) Knik River landing

(5) Nancy Lake

(4) Hatcher Pass

(4) Denali Highway at Susitna River

(3) Independence Mine

(3) Iditarod Trail

(3) Palmer Hayflats

(2) Knik Sled Dog Recreation District

IMPROVEMENTS:

-Keep areas open in winter;
-Keep restrooms open, service them and collect trash.

-Has no improvements now-needs plowing and monitoring.

-Dangerous launching: need a safer facility (below the new bridge or possibly above the old bridge).

-Snowmobiles need safe areas.*****
-Need another motorized access.
-Skiers need a place of their own.

-Plan needs a 5-year review.**
-Needs more equitable division of motorized/nonmotorized (need more specific snowmobile corridor).*
-Need snowmobile trail to Independence Mine.*

-Launching is dangerous by the bridge.
-State should acquire piece of land private land where the cabin is.

-Needs more restoration.

-Have more group management (maybe by private foundation).

-Make new dedicated access through wetlands.
-Do not fence land.
-Needs long range planning.

-Needs more trail improvement.

(1) Deshka Landing

-Needs more and better access.

Iron Dog Trail (2 write-ins)

-Develop from Big Lake to the Susitna River, provide for grooming.

Snowmobile facility parking upgrades
(2 write-ins)

-Need safer turnarounds for tow vehicles and trailers, need restrooms at: Petersville Road at Moose and Kroto creeks, Mile 89 Glenn Hwy/Pinochle Trail access, Mile 72 Glenn Hwy/Perminente Trail, north side Hatcher Pass above Willow Creek bridge.

NEW DESIRED FACILITIES

(10)More separated path trails along highways.***** Have divided trails, one on each side of the road.***

(3) Skateboard parks.

(2) Knik multi-use bike trail.

(2) Ice skating areas (plow, shovel, can plow ice when plowing lakeside trail areas).

(2) More plowed lots for winter access.

(1) Shore up Knik Bluff (approximately at Mile 15) - could become an overlook park.

(1) More boat launch areas (for example, at Willow Creek).

(1) Seward to Barrow winter trail.

(1) Curry/Kasugi ridges aircraft landing area.

Swimming beaches.

Specific areas for cross country skiers.

More lit areas for winter recreation.

More trash receptacles on highways.

More baseball fields.

Parks Highway/Wasilla tunnels/underpasses for multi-use.

Obtain, assure, develop, maintain the following rights-of-ways: trail access at Pinochle Trail (Mile 89/Glenn), route connecting Wasilla to Big Lake via Lucille Creek, Houston to Hatcher Pass and Hatcher Pass north route (old tank trail), Big Lake to Willow to Talkeetna area trails network (key trails to be marked/mapped with grooming provided on heavily used routes), Bald Mountain access near Schrock Road and Little Susitna River (develop trailhead parking and trail to control environmental damage), Fish Creek Trail connecting Knik to Big Lake, trails connecting Knik to Glenn Highway via Knik flats (toe of bluff has private property conflicts), off-road vehicle corridor from Wasilla to Palmer and northward up the Matanuska drainage to connect with Chickaloon/Chitna Pass trail system. (2 write-ins, pertaining mostly to snowmobiling)

Develop Anchorage to Fairbanks snowmobile route (2 write-ins).

Rifle and pistol shooting range in Mat-Su area, especially near Palmer-Wasilla (2 write-ins).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(7) The liability issue (land owner-user-trails, etc.) must be addressed at all levels. In addition, 2 written comments said: management recommendations never seem to confront how to deal with negative impacts caused by trail development/promotion, but residents in the trail areas have to deal with impacts and are forced to get relief from the tort law system to deal with liabilities; reduce liability for those promoting events.

(6) State Parks should implement Senate Bill 35/House Bill 23.

(5) Need more outdoor user education, especially on toilet and waste disposal (could provide plastic bags!). In addition, 2 write-ins said: develop education program for teaching safety, trail etiquette, avalanche awareness, etc., in the schools.

(4) Need universal signage on maps, and more maps of trails. In addition, 2 write-ins said: develop mapping/signage for all trails that are part of the state trails network.

(4) Note: cross referenced from the Anchorage workshop: four participants at the Anchorage workshop said there was non-snowmobile off-road vehicle damage to the Talkeetnas -- off the trail. Two write-ins also said: develop/manage heavy off-road use, particularly non-winter uses to control environmental damage (often caused by users picking their own route).

(3) Selling land cuts and blocks trails: account for existing trails* * ; have the Borough witness sale papers; have state legislation to reserve trails before land is transferred.*

(3) Protect and dedicate historic trails.

(2) State Parks should emphasize both winter/summer use, and motorized/nonmotorized use.

(2) Contact your legislators--all these recreation and management items cost money.

(2) Have citizen advisory meetings instead of citizen advisory boards.

(1) Have more seasonal time share of activities.

(1) Project funding should be for high resident population area use (benefits more people).

Have multiple use of areas without segregation (if you separate activities, each activity should give up an equal amount of space to what it receives; example, snowmobiles cannot go in cross country ski only areas, so skiers should not be allowed in snowmobile only areas). Get away from separation, keep the state out of court--have people work together.

Need universal protocol for trail use and trail courtesy.

Hold fewer public hearings, and use the money for facilities instead.

Address wetlands through the Palmer Hayflats/Knik/Fairview Comprehensive Plan.

Recreationists should all have better visibility/lights (should be a requirement; requires education).

Have user fees/registration for all kinds of users. 2 write-ins said: require point of sale registration/title for all snowmachines/ATVs; fee or tax system should provide for management/development of off-road motorized vehicle infrastructure, fund trail grooming/management with purchase of use permits.

Reinstate the avalanche center with daily hotline/radio reporting for forecasting/monitoring avalanche potential throughout the state (2 write-ins).

Fund trail grooming.

I have observed only minimal efforts on behalf of the state to provide infrastructure improvements and user management to accommodate rapidly expanding snowmobiling recreation; unmanaged growth of the snowmobiling population cannot continue without inevitable/unacceptable conflicts with other users, property owners, environmental damage, and lost economic and recreational opportunities. It is awesome to see that the state has taken on this task to formulate a plan to create or improve facilities; we need a cohesive, multi-use plan; Alaska has the potential to be the best snowmobile location in the world. (2 write-ins)

Assure space in the right of way for off-road vehicle use as part of any design for all collector and greater road improvements in the Mat-Su Valley.

Enforce laws/regulations on heavily used areas, such as Big Lake and Hatcher pass, to control drunk driving, underage operators, reckless/speeding trail users (2 write-ins).

Don't promote events in areas that lack adequate services (such as troopers, EMT), route promotional dog and snowmobile races within existing service area along the Parks and Susitna River; or, route them in state or national parks to avoid individual liability.

State parks and the Board of Game lack political muscle necessary to enact even the most basic regulation of off-road vehicle impacts.

DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

During Spring 1998, Seattle National Park Service SCORP officials prereviewed the draft SCORP and found it acceptable as a qualifying SCORP. Over 400 copies of the public review draft were then distributed to agencies (including the Governor's Office), organizations, and the public by June 2, 1998. Public notice was placed in newspapers. Library review copies were available statewide. The comment period ran through July 6. Nineteen written responses were received (10 from agencies and organizations; 9 from individuals).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THEIR APPLICABILITY/INCLUSION:

- a. 8 responses contained satisfaction and high praise for the document.
- b. 4 responses were strictly applicable to the Appendix of public comments, and are included in this section as clarification of and recommendations for new facilities, existing facilities, and management recommendations.
- c. 6 responses contained fact updates, typos, general wording and minimal clarification (no content change). All these changes will be incorporated.
- d. 9 responses contained a mix of content, clarification, and appendix-related opinions (included in this section). All clarification and opinions are included.

CONTENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Few comments were beyond the plan scope; they primarily involved misunderstanding of SCORP scope. The plan was reviewed to clear up any confusion. A few comments dealt with inclusions/changes for the next SCORP, and will be considered for the next SCORP.

MAJOR CONTENT CLARIFICATIONS/INCLUSION (reviewed by staff):

- a. 5 comments requested clarification of why the tourism goal was included, and who a tourist is. We will rework the tourism goal and information has been reworked to reflect that tourists include all visitors (Alaskans, too), clarify the state's role in providing for all visitors (balancing developing state tourism for Alaska needs; opportunities are for Alaskans as well as other visitors), and reflect that there are recreation organizations as well as individuals.
- b. 5 comments requested clarification of user incompatibility, and asked for better balance that would dispel any perception of favoring some uses over others. The text has been balanced to reflect various views of incompatibility/compatibility of users.
- c. 4 comments asked for better reference to winter use. The writing has been balanced to better describe that winter use.
- d. 4 comments discussed various trail items (some confusion about representing Alaska's trails that are not "developed"; legal access, identification). Sections have been added on the need

for identifying trails and resolving legal access to existing trails (this was heard at almost every public meeting). The text will describe how trails have been historically set, importance of legal access, need for a focused program and liability relief. The SCORP text now emphasizes that the SCORP includes information/numbers about “developed” trails.

In summary, the final SCORP includes almost all comments, suggestions, and clarifications within the scope of the document. Opinions are included below. Most comments were very helpful in making this a better document.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/OPINIONS THAT FIT THE CATEGORIES OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP COMMENTS (all SCORP users are encouraged to consider these comments in recreation planning):

Existing Facilities (no additional comments).

New Desired Facilities:

Remote campsites along rivers.

Preserve the abandoned railway between Palmer and Sutton as a great multi-use trail.

More disabled/older persons access.

More cleared winter pullouts.

Erect reflective mileage info signs on full lengths of trails.

Management Recommendations:

Funding for park facilities and outdoor recreation programs would best be funded by a tax on outdoor gear. There are funding systems to pay for nonmotorized activities without assessing fees for motorized users.

Have a statewide tax system on bicycles to provide for recreational improvements.

Petition the legislature for a law that says no capital projects will be funded without a maintenance program.

Organizations such as the state snowmobile association would benefit greatly from training programs for their volunteers.

Motorized representation on the TRAAK board is not proportional with nonmotorized uses, and should be balanced.

Promote winter motorized use of ISTEPA pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

State Parks management should take note of Denali National Park problems with intrusive snowmobiling/motorized uses. These chase away wildlife and users who cannot stand noise and pollution.

Damage to wildlife and habitat from unregulated off road vehicle use is an issue.

The State should work closely with the congressional delegation to ensure that Congress adequately funds the LWC Fund. Provide more funding for more populous areas.

Develop a collector's set of trail pins for communities as a way to fund trails.

Have corridors dedicated for recreational access before land is sold.

Focus plans to development and dedication of primitive trails for year round multiple use.

Open up the wildlands so everyone has access.

Issue construction permits for improving trails with easements and rights-of-way.

Have users with first-hand knowledge of trails report conditions and opportunities.

Increase public knowledge of legal recreational trails: provide trip info and descriptions. Make info available in sports shops and lodges as well as in public agencies.

Recreational policies should err on the side of favoring those uses which do not generally create conflicts, not those that do (far too few quiet areas have been set aside).

Far too many major tourism facility proposals are forced on Alaskans by the state and federal governments; private land should be the priority for tourism facilities..

In allocating land for different uses, fairness requires dividing up relatively accessible land rather than providing some users primarily with remote land.

Alaska's goal for its public lands should be to focus on protecting true wildland opportunities.

Implement or investigate possibility of a program that will protect scenic viewsheds (such as by restricting land use along scenic corridors).

Because of lack of protective regulations and enforcement in many state park areas, tourism promotion results in loss of natural quiet and may be detrimental to park values.

Tourism development should first emphasize the need of Alaskans.

APPENDIX E

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<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us>

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us>

Alaska Public Lands Information Center
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic/center>

Alaska Visitors Association
<http://www.visitalaska.org>

Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association
<http://www.alaska.net/~awrta>

Bureau of Land Management
<http://www.ak.blm.gov/>

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<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks>

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